All you need to know to help your child get on after A-levels



Plus: THE INDEPENDENT'S £2.5 MILLION STUDENT PROMOTION Day Three: GREAT OFFERS ON FOOD AND DRINK

> See back page of the Parents' Guide (open only to UCAS applicants)

> > Colin Brown

largest on record.

Chief Political Correspondent

Figures due out this week are ex-



Record rise

in hospital

...and in thelongweekend BOB GUCCIONE Porn, pets and God

### Armed, dangerous and ready to bite



Epidemic in England: A newly emerged adult female mosquito, of the species culex pipiens

Photograph: Martin Dohrn/Science Photo Library

#### and Claire Scott

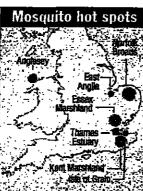
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Southern Britain is enduring a temporary epidemic of mosquitoes, of which there are 32 species in the country, thanks to hot weather preceded by weeks

Anti-mosquito remedies are "walking out of the shops", as people struggle with the discomfort and sleepless nights they are causing.

Peter Jones in London and branches of Milletts outdoor supplies shops said yesterday that anti-mosquito measures were leaving the shelves as fast as they were stocking them.

Nigel Hill medical entomologist from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said the conditions



this year had been "absolutely ideal" for mosquitoes to breed. He had recently been to Epping Forest in Essex, one of the worst-hit areas, to search for the anopheles plumious mosquito a strain that has been known to carry malaria. Normally it

would take weeks to find two or three in a tree, he said. This week he found 60. "The wet weather that preceded this hot spell is the root of the increase," Mr Hill explained.

Dr Ralph Harbach of the Natural History Museum, said that breeding sites for the country's 32 species have increased significantly because of the

The areas worst hit are the marshlands of Essex and Kent, and anywhere where warm climates co-exist with stagnant or slow-moving water, enabling the mosquitoes to breed. In the Middle Ages, malaria-carrying mosquitoes were common in eastern England, particularly in those two counties.

#### We do get the odd malaria case, but they're

not likely'

bites. Tim Stanley, project manager of a team working on antimalarial drugs at Glaxo Wellcome has some consolation: mosquitoes only live for 20-30 days, and changing weather conditions are unlikely to prolong their life cycles far enough for the biting to continue much beyond next month.

"Any increase in the numbers of mosquitoes is purely a tem-But for those currently porary one. You'd need these plagued by itching, swollen sorts of temperatures for long Board for years".

#### periods for them to really be growing sustainably," he said. "The beauty here is that they're just a pest, rather than a threat. We do get the occa-

sional malarial case, but they're not likely to happen as a matter of course. Mr Stanley advises those with ponds to check the surface for scum - actually mosquito

cggs - and scrape it off, in order to minimise the prospect of not say how dangerous it was to eat beef during the BSE epi-demic in the Eighties Page 5 being bitten.

Alternative remedies include smoking, or cultivating cheesy feet, both of which are appar ently mosquito turn-offs. But there is little point moving northwards. According to Nigel Hill, midges, their equally irri-tating relatives have been the "bane of the Scottish Tourist

#### pected to show a record 13 per cent increase in hospital waiting statutory obligation to break list figures, likely to be the even, leading to longer queues. biggest single increase since the National Health Service began. The figures are likely to prompt a political row over calls for the Government to spend more money on the NHS. Ministers are alarmed befacing a crisis.

cause the increase of 136,000 patients in the year ending in June will make the total of more than 1.18m people waiting for hospital operations the

The numbers waiting for treatment for more than 18 months - in breach of the patients' charter - has also risen and the total number on the waiting lists shows no signs of Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, will heap the

blame on the last Tory government for causing the crisis in the NHS, and he is ready to deny Tory claims that the Governis fulfilling. ment is reneging on its election pledges. But he realises he will face demands for more money which he cannot meet.

Waiting lists were shrinking under the Tories a year ago, but they started to rise in the runup to the election, following a harsh winter and a surge in emergencies.
Within two weeks of the

election, it was announced that the figures for the first quarter to March had seen an increase of 5.4 per cent to a total 1,164,400 on the waiting list,

Blairs in France

The residents of the tiny French

village of Saint-Martin-d'Oydes,

near the Spanish border, are

waiting excitedly to welcome

Tony Blair and his family to-

morrow. The French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin is stay-

ing nearby, and the two are ex-

Business & City .....17-19

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Saturday Story ...... 14

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pected to meet.

THE BROADSKEET

with 155 patients waiting for more than 18 months. Some hospitals cancelled all routine operations, and many hospitals went into the red, in spite of a

To ease the strain, the Government quietly revised the guidance to the hospitals in July to let them break even over three years. But ministers are in no doubt that they are still

Mr Dobson has been doing his best to prepare public opinion for the rise, by making it clear in the Commons and in speeches around the country that the number on the waiting list was set to continue rising.

His latest warning came only last week, when Labour celebrated its first 100 days in office. Mr Dobson said: "There is no question of betraying anybody. The manifesto was carefully worded to avoid a commitment to reduce waiting lists. Instead, it promised to "treat an extra 100,000 patients" and end waiting for cancer surgery, which it

paign posters and full-page advertisements in national newspapers carried Labour's five election pledges, including a promise that "NHS waiting lists will be shorter". The Government has five years to meet that pledge, but these figures have left some ministers wondering whether they can keep it, with-

out more money for the NHS. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, produced a surprise increase of £1.2bn in health

Budget on 2 July, but he has so far resisted demands for extra money for the current year. The clamour for money to be switched from other departments, such as defence, is also

A group of new intake Labour MPs - including Phil Sawford (Kettering) Mike Wood (Batley and Spen) Tony McWalter (Hemel Hempstead) and Christine McCarfety (Calder Valley) - have joined veteran rebels such as Tony Benn in calling for deep spending cuts in defence to pay for more public services in the

Government's defence review. Tony Blair ordered no fundamental cuts in defence capability at the start of the review, but the rebellious stand by new MPs underlines the difficulty facing George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, in persuading the party to accept the results in the Autumn.

Those on Labour's left who are behind the move say they are not attempting to turn back the clock to the big rows over But at the height of the elec- unilateralism in the early 1980s. tion campaign. Labour cam- But they believe they will strike a chord with the party's newer members by calling for more money to be spent on hospital beds than tanks, jets and bombs.

It comes a week after Peter Mandelson announced that a Whitehall unit was being set up by Mr Blair to tackle the underclass. He was criticised by prominent figures, led by Roy Hattersley, Labour's former deputy leader, for failing to offer any redistribution of wealth to go with his announcement.

### Doctors' agonising dilemma over cash-strapped family and dying son

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Doctors have told the family of an 11-year-old boy dying from leukaemia that his treatment may have to be stopped unless they can raise at least £50,000. Fahim Manji, who arrived in Britain from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 13 June, is being treated for acute lymphoblastic

Hospital, in London. Dr Michael Potter, consultant haematologist at the Royal Free, said: "The problem the family have got is that without adequate treatment there is a high chance that their son will die. With adequate treatment be has a 60-70 per cent chance." He has had two courses of

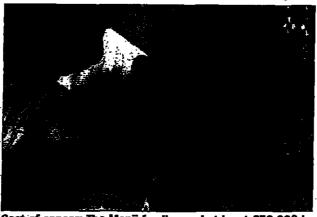
chemotherapy and although the disease is now in remission doctors say he needs further intensive treatment to save his life. His parents, Amin, 36, and Nasim, 38, who run a salt mine

needed could not be provided at home. They hastily mort-gaged their house in Dar es Salaam to raise £10,000, believing it would be more than enough to pay for his treatment. When the family arrived at

the Royal Free, doctors found that Fahim had malaria and was suffering from kidney problems in addition to his leukaemia. They agreed to treat leukaemia at the Royal Free him on compassionate grounds but warned the family that he would need two years treatment costing between £60,000 and £100,000.

"Fahim is not a British citizen so he is not eligible for free treatment on the NHS." Dr Potter said. "It has to be done on a paying basis. You cannot blame the parents, they thought they were arriving with a fornine, but £10,000 is really a drop in the ocean.

When the family arrived Fahim was in a mess and we agreed to start treatment even though the deposit they had was not as great as the hospital Hurrow Observer, has launched and felt isolated. "He is very quiwould have liked. Now they an appeal for them, chaired by et. He understands what is go- HAI 2DR.



Cost of cancer: The Manji family need at least £50,000 to save the life of Fahim (centre) Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

NHS is losing money. The hospital wants to be sensitive but had to do something. It is it is in a very difficult position. It has been a time of great andicty for the parents.

The family are staying with to us.' relatives in Harrow, Middlesez, She and the local newspaper, the

have run up large debts and the the local mayor. Fahim's mothhad to do something. It is terrible. I wish I could wake up from this awful nightmare. I never thought it would happen

> She said her son was doing well but was missing his friends

ing to help him but he keeps a lot inside himself.

"He cannot go out in public because of the risk of infection. I bought a football for him but there is nobody for him to play with. He is alone."

THE LONG WEEKEND Arts, reviews ......4,5 She said doctors had sug-Gardening .....15 gested they return to Tanzania Motoring .....19 and continue treatment there. But what is the use if he gets an infection? It would be like signing a death warrant. It is not easy for parents. I would never forgive myself if something happened to him."

Read The In a statement last night, the Royal Free NHS trust said the Independent on the World Wide Web bill for treatment so far exceeded £35,000 but the hospital had agreed to provide it "as independent co.uk a matter of goodwill and good clinical practice". It said doctors would liaise with medical staff in Tanzania about Fahim's fu-

Donations may be sent to the Fahim Manji Appeal, c/o Harrow Observer, 326 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

#### A DINCKLY ... CHILDREN IN Factory farming fear Consumers are being put at risk by factory farming and a mas-NORTH KOREA sive use of antibiotics, according to the animal welfare group Compassion in World Farming. And the Government still can-

After three years of devastating floods, a generation of children in North Korea is on the brink of death - like little Kim Su Sim, who is severely malnourished and desperate for food.

UNICEF is the leading children's agency working in North Korea. We are now distributing essential foods - such as high energy milk - and basic medicines. But as each day goes by, more and more children are in danger of dying.

We need your help to save children's lives. We rely totally on voluntary contributions. Please send a gift today.

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United Nations Children's Fund

ture care.

#### significant shorts

#### Man charged with street shooting of Dillon, 5,

A 26-year-old man was yesterday charged with murdering schoolboy Dillon Hall in an apparent drugs-related shooting last week. Five-year-old Dillon was gunned down as he went to buy a bottle of pop with his stepfather, John Bates, 28, near the family's home in Bolton, Greater Manchester, last Wednesday.

Greater Manchester police said that the man, of Bolton, would

appear before magistrates in the town today charged with the boy's murder and the attempted murder of Mr Bates, who was shot in

The man was among three arrested on Wednesday when armed police swooped on a terraced house a short distance away from the street where Dillon lived with Mr Bates and his mother, Jane Hull. The two other men, aged 25 and 29, were released on police bail on Thursday. The man was charged only a few hours after magistrates had granted detectives permission to continue questioning him for a further 36 hours.

#### Female shadows for Lib Dem MPs

Would-be female MPs are to be invited to shadow leading Liberal Democrats to experience life at Westminster, including the spectacle of seeing men behaving badly in the House of Commons. Jackie Ballard, the party spokeswoman on women's issues, is asking all Liberal Democrat MPs to accept a woman as their shadow for up to a year. She is hoping this will prepare women for the laddish culture in the Commons, and not put them off being candidates. Liberal Democrat female MPs complain that the Commons is run on 19th-century rules as a debating society, where grey suits still dominate, in spite of there now being more women on the Labour

Jenny Tonge, Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park, a former doctor, compared the atmosphere to being at medical school in the late Fifties, when she was 18. She said the worst offenders were Tories Nicholas Soames, Michael Howard and Michael Heseltine, who were like "grandiloquent" consultants, hanging around "thinking they are the bees' knees". Colin Brown

#### **Aborigine warrior to go home**



An Aborigine delegation is to travel to Britain to reclaim a skull believed to belong to the 19th-century tribal hero Yagan, which has been exhumed from

Everton Cemetery in Liverpool. The excavation licence was granted by the Home Office after a plea to Prime Minister Tony Blair. Aborigine leader Ken Colbung came to Merseyside two months ago hoping to return home with the skull (artist's impression, left). Yagan fought in clashes with white settlers in Western Australia. His head was brought

to Britain in 1833 by a bounty hunter and lent to Liverpool City Museum in 1884 but in 1964 it was buried in a wooden box.

#### **Germans jailed after beach trespass**

Three members of a German religious group who appeared in court after illegally occupying a Cornish coastal beauty spot were sent to jail yesterday. The three men were given conditional discharges for two years after pleading guilty to offences following their arrests at Loe Bar, which is owned by the National Trust, on Wednesday, and were each ordered to pay £54 costs. But because they could not pay immediately magistrates ordered them to be committed to prison for a maximum of seven days. One was released later yesterday after his costs were paid.

A woman, 67, was also given a conditional discharge but not ordered to pay costs. A fifth man remanded in custody after pleading not guilty to trespass will appear in court next week.

The parents of a brain-damaged child who died just days after being awarded £700,000 damages, yesterday said they were relieved that health chiefs had halted plans to reclaim the money.

Toni Calladine and her husband Peter had fought for the nine years of daughter Hollie's life to win the compensation for mistakes made during the child's birth at a Nottingham hospital, but she died eight days after they won their court battle in May. Then Nottinghamshire Health Authority said it would seek to reclaim at least part of the award, claiming that some had been meant for Hollie's on-going care. But yesterday, in a joint statement, Hollie's parents and the health authority said an agreement had been reached in which the latter would be withdrawing its appeal against the damages.

#### Staff defended over drowned boy

A social services chief yesterday defended his staff who were supervising a five-year-old boy whose body was found in a lake during a day-trip on Thursday. Martin Hollis, of Letchworth, was on a day out with nine other children from a social services family centre when his body was discovered at Fairlands Valley Park in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, after a five-hour search. A post-mortem examination was being carried out to find out how he died. Ian White, Hertfordshire County Council's head of social services, said: "There's no evidence that he was abducted. There's no evidence that any of the staff were anything less than conscientious."

#### Apology

The Independent yesterday mistakenly accompanied an article about Gandhi with a picture of the actor Ben Kingsley playing Gandhi. We apologise for this error to all those readers who were upset, and we apologise to Mr Kingsley.

#### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Helen Yuzefova: Triumph of experience over youth

### Chess prodigy falls short bid to bridge the age

en-year-old chess prodigy Helen Yuzefova, from the Ukraine, has been pitting her wits against the best of British this week at the Smith & Williamson Championships.

With an International Chess Federation rating that puts her on the tringes of the top hundred women players in the world, it is not surprising that she preferred to compete against adults, in the Harry Baines Week 2 tournament rather than enter the under-fils championship.

Herresult, however, of 4.5 points from her nine games mainly against club players came as a disappointment for a young lady who looks like one of the most exciting prospects for the future.

Her below-par result was not the only disappointin East Sussex yesterday, the scene was set for an exciting climax. Insufficient funds to atract our leading prefessional citing climax. players, this year's event was able to offer a prize fund.

In the first ten days of the competition, Tony Miles good enough to attract 12 grandmasters and Matthew Sadler had fought their way to the top Sadly it was precisely the generously of these pizze of the 82-player field. Now they faced each other in a district the sadle of the 82-player field. Now they faced each other in a district the sadle of the sadle of the destination of the title and masters can be coldly calculating beasts at times. The title will take place today the accountancy group Smith 8. Williamson.

After 15 minutes' play, however, the grandmasters made a move that could only be understood by the accountants among the specialors they agreed a draw.
It was all a question of money, really. By whiching
the final game, either man would have won £10,900,
but a loss could have left them with only £560. A draw,
on the other hand, guaranteed a minimum of £4,000,
and a maximum of £7,500 each, depending on the re-

and a maximum or 27,000 seas, some suits of the other players games.

On balance, the players—like poles, players agree, ing to share a particularly large per del stronger with the moment to take their profits rather has speculate.

everything on the last throw of a pawn.
While understandable, the decision was maturally disappointing both to speciators and orga ment of the day. When the final round of the British

After a decade during which the absence of composite chess Championship itself began at Hove Town Hall sponsorship had left the British Championship with

#### Ten-year ban for agent who behaved badly

The former agent to Men Behaving Badly star Caroline Quentin was yesterday banned from running an employment business for 10 years after her agency went into liquidation owing more than £480.000.

The maximum possible prohibition was imposed on Sharon Hamper at Southampton Industrial Tribunal at the end of a case brought by the Department of Trade and Industry's employment agency standards office.

Quentin (top right) was one of several celebrities – others included Lesley Ash (right), actor Craig McLachlan and television enter Shaw Taylor - left badiv out of pocket by the collapse of Ms Hamper's company last year. The £300,000, the rest of the debts

being due to other creditors. Department of Trade and Industry minister Ian McCartney said he was delighted by the judgment. He said: "These proceedings serve notice that the DTI will not hesitate to act against agencies behaving badly ... This Government will not tolerate exploitation of people at work. Employees in or out of the public eye deserve decent minimum standards of treatment by their employers or agents. This Government is determined to ensure that they receive it." The minister served notice on





any other unscrupulous agents to clean up their act quickly. Agents who soft soap their clients whilst ripping off their cash will face were penalties," he insisted.

The tribunal made two orders. The first was against Sharon Geraldine Toms-Smith, known as Sharon Hamper, and the second against her management company formerly based in Great Queen Street, London. The orders prohibit either Ms Hamper or the company from being concerned with any employment business for 10 years.

#### Flying granny lands a first

for Britain

Flying granny Jennifer Murray landed back in Britain today as the first woman ever to have piloted a

helicopter around the world. Having braved sandstorms, cyclones and smoking volcanos, the 56-year-old grandmother and her co-pilot Quentin Smith, 26, finally came back down to earth in Denham, Buckinghamshire.

They were cheered in to land by well-wishers including the Duches of York, at the end of their 97-day marathon trip. The Duchess said: "I just think she is amazing. I'm completely humbled and she did a fantastic job ... I'm just totally and utterly in awe of the two of them." During their circumnavigation,

Mrs Murray and Mr Smith covered over 30,000 miles and travelled to over 26 countries. They made over 80 refuelling stops in Europe, the Middle East, South East Asia, the US and Canada, before flying home across the north Atlantic via Greenland and Iceland, Mrs Murray said: "It has been the trip of a lifetime and we have certainly been very lucky with few major technical problems and generally excellent weather. We have confounded critics who said the

trip was not possible." it was not all flying, however, for the pair, who raised thousands of pounds for Save the Children. They had time to stop off at the Monaco Grand Prix, as well as leading a fly-past in Hong Kong during the handover celebrations.

#### Drug gangs cashing in on 'recreational' heroin trend

International drugs gangs are deliberately targeting Britain in a drive to boost heroin sales, Customs investigators warned yesterday. They said sales were rising because of a trend towards 'recreational" use of the drug by non-addicts who smoke it, rather than inject it.

While heroin seizures were down from last year's record high, the underlying trend was still upwards, said the first annual report by the Castoms and Excise National Investigation Service (NIS). The heroin market in Britain is currently dominated by Turkish criminal gangs together with "increasingly professional and organised groups" of West African nationals. "There is evidence that the UK is being aggressively targeted by such gangs to create an increased market and to satisfy a trend towards the recreational use of heroin," the report said Traffickers increasingly appeared to be

stockpiling the drug in order to manipulate street prices, it added. Overall the NIS, which was formed last year from the merger of the Costoms Investigations Division and Collection Investigation Units, prevented illegal drugs worth £1.5bn at street prices arriving in Britain. It also "dismantled or significantly disrupted" a total of 103 "major criminal organisations" in Britain as a result of a policy of targeting gangs rather than individual traffickers. Co-operation with overseas anti-drugs agencies led to the seizure of a further £1.6bn worth of drugs abroad and more than 250 arrests.

The report said that seizures by the NIS of other drugs such as ecstasy and amphetamines were continuing to rise while cannabis seizures reached record levels – more than 47 tonnes.

#### HERITAGE

#### Charges put cathedral back in black

The introduction of entrance charges has helped put Canterbury Cathedral back in credit – but visitor numbers have failen by

200,000 it emerged yesterday. The cathedral recorded a £250,381 surplus last year following the controversial decision to impose the £2 fee for visitors in June 1995. The charge rose to £2.50 in April this year – and last month the cathedral became the first in Britain to charge visitors on Sundays. But figures showed that the number of visitors to the cathedral – which ranks as Britain's fourth most popular historic site, following the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and York Minster – fell by 200,600 last year to 1.7 million. Before the charges were introduced, financial projections showed the cathedral could run up a deficit of £500,000 each year until the end of the century.



#### HEALTH

#### **Women in cancer screening study**

Early screening for ovarian cancer, which kills 4,000 women in the UK each year, is to be tested in a study by the Cancer Research

Campaign, it was announced yesterday.

Less than a third of patients with ovarian cancer survive more than five years and early prevention and more effective treatments are urgently needed, the charity says in a new report.

More than 2,000 women at high risk of the disease because of their family history will be recruited by scientists from the Cancer

Research Campaign and the Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund. In 5 per cent of ovarian cancer cases the victim has a genetic susceptibility to the disease which increases the risk by up to 40 times. Survival rates are increased dramatically with early treatment, but in the vast majority of cases the disease is only discovered at an advanced stage. Dr James Mackay, of the charity's human genetics research group in Cambridge, said: "No one has ever tried widespread screening on this high-risk population before and we are hopeful that it will save lives." Jeremy Laurance

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### Tory reforms 'driving down wages'

The labour-market reforms of Tory years have conspired to drive down the wages of the low-skilled, according to a study yesterday

from an influential think-tank.

Higher unemployment tends to put downward pressure on wages mainly in sectors which have many low-skilled workers wages mainly in sectors which have many sow-skilled workers whose pay is particularly low, it states. But changes made during the 1980s have had an additional impact, said the study from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. They have made it harder for the unemployed to avoid taking low-paid jobs and made it easier for firms to lay off workers, the institute said. The author of the study, Bob Anderton, said: "My argument is

that in the long run it is not really good for the economy. [Low-paid jobs] are basically bad jobs, a lot of them. Real wages for jobs taken by the unemployed have hardly risen since 1979."

During the boom of the late 1980s, when unemployment fell rapidly, wages began to increase rapidly. But Mr Anderton added. "In this recovery wages are not recovering so much to this fall in

"In this recovery, wages are not responding so much to this fall in unemployment. There has been some kind of fundamental change in the relationship between unemployment and wages."

#### MEDICINE

#### New test on way for foetal defects

Safer techniques for the diagnosis of certain prenatal disorders may be on the horizon, according to a report in the latest edition of A study of 43 pregnant women revealed the presence of foetal

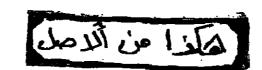
netic material in the mother's plasma, a location that previously had been overlooked, according to researchers from Britain, Italy and Hong Kong. As a result, it should become possible to screen women early in pregnancy for abnormalities carried by the father using a simple blood test, the researchers wrote. "It would mean that a proportion of women might be spared an invasive genetic diagnosis," said Dr James Wainscoat of the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. "People had never anticipated that DNA from the foetus is mostly present in the plasma rather than in the cellular part of the blood." Current methods of testing for abnormalities rely on tests like amniocentesis which carries a risk of miscarriage.

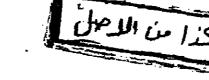


**NEWSPAPERS** SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers



### GET LOST IN GREAT BRITTEN.





# Farming 'a danger to health'

Animal welfare group warns of 'catastrophic consequences' of modern farms

Michael Streeter

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STATES STATES STUDY

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Consumers are being put at risk by factory farming and a "mas-sive" use of antibiotics to control disease on farms, a report

claimed yesterday.

The animal welfare group

Compassion in World Farming - whose findings were privately dismissed as "alarmist" by the farming industry - said there could be "catastrophic consequences for human health' without urgent reform.

The CWF report, which draws together research from around the world, drew concern from consumer groups yesterday. It claims that one in three chilled, raw chickens contain salmonella, nearly half of fresh chickens contain diarrhoeacausing campylobacter and that a quarter of raw pork sausages and 22 per cent of raw beefburgers contain E. coli.

It also describes how food poisoning in England and Wales has increased six-fold over the past 15 years, costing the taxpayer and industry between £1bn and £3bn a year. Equally, huge amounts of antibiotics were routinely used on farms to control the "bug explosion", leading to the risk of mutated bacteria resistant to the drugs.

The report's author Dr Tim O'Brien said the main responsibility should not simply fail on consumers to ensure that food is properly prepared. "It's no good blaming the poor housewife or whoever cooks the food. The problem is at source on the

'He said: "The massive overuse of antibiotics on factory farms, to try to contain the inevitable explosion of bacteria and to push animals further beyond their natural growth rates, is a strategy doomed to failure.

"It may constitute an uncontrolled experiment in bacterial genetic engineering on an enormous scale, with potentially catastrophic consequences for human bealth."

The CWF's claims brought a swift denial from the chicken inecutive of the British Poultry ens than in free-range hens.



Feathered foe: one in three chilled, raw chickens contain salmonella, according to the Compassion in World Farming report

Meat Federation said: "There is no link between the way in which poultry is reared and the rise in the level of food poisoning, and there is certainly no question of a 'bug explosion' on chicken farms." Reports suggested the levels of salmonella in British chicken flocks has been reducing significantly over the last several years, he said.

Hugh Oliver-Bellasis, head of food policy for the National Farmers Union, denied that consumers were at risk, and said evidence showed that disease was no more prevalent in industry. Peter Bradnock, chief ex- tensive-farmed flocks of chick-

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said they were constantly looking at the issue of food safety, but said evidence pointed away from claims that intensive farming led to more salmonella. A Tesco spokesman said they were committed to ensuring products came from animals reared to the "highest standards of welfare

and husbandry".
However, Julie Sheppard. senior spokeswoman for the Consumers Association, said the report underlined that more steps needed to be taken at the farm rather than in the kitchen. "The consumer has been looked at as the last line of de-

fence - at the moment it almost appears as if they are the only line of defence.

Food safety minister Jeff Rooker told the BBC Radio 4 programme Farming Today that intensive farming could cause problems and said the Government was pushing to make food safety the absolute priority of producers, "If intensive factory farming is not managed properly and corners are cut in terms of animal husbandry and animal health then we could end up with food that's not up to scratch, causing problems in the population," he said.

Mr Rooker added: "We are

seeking to take measures to cut back on the use of drugs and chemicals in our food production.

"Sometimes it's going to make difficulties for people op-erating at the sharp edge for the fast and last buck in terms of farming production. But we do have to address this issue, People want cheap food - but they want safe food above all else." After more than a year's research into eating habits, the Government is still unable to say how dangerous it was for Britons to eat burgers and other beef products when the epidemic of 'mad cow disease" was at its in June 1996. Yesterday, Maff height; writes Charles Arthur.

Though the Ministry of Agristudy will be completed.

Some data on eating habits culture, Fisheries and Food has emerged. The British Med-(MAFF) yesterday said it has commissioned a report about ical Journal reports today that surveys show that in the 1980s how much tissue with a high young people, who have developed significantly more cases of BSE risk went into food products, it did not admit that it has the "new variant" of CJD - alurgently been trying to establish exactly that fact for more than most certainly caused by BSE - were eating far more kebabs, a year - at the request of its advisors on BSE and its human hamburgers and meat pies than older people, who have not fig-ured in the v-CJD cases. corollary, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). The Independent first reported that MAFF had a Until strict abattoir controls private company carrying out an

came into force in 1989, beef offal that might have been contaminated by BSE, such as brain and spinal, was allowed into the human food chain.

Man wins £81,000 after unlawful arrest

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A file on the conduct of up to seven West Midlands police officers has been passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions after a jury awarded a West In-dian man £81,000 for uniswful arrest, assault and malicious

prosecution.

Judge Caroline Alton referred the case to the DPP. Dame Barbara Mills, at the conclusion of the civil claim brought by former nightclub doorman Michael Smith, 41, from Wolvernampion, who the jury found suffered a fractured coccyx at the hands of officers.

"This is the sort of case that combines a series of matters involving violence, racism and lying before the court," the judge said.
The £81,000 includes £45,000

exemplary damages designed to punish the police for their misconduct and £22,000 in aggravated damages, which are intended to reflect high-handed, insulting or oppressive con-

The case is the second to be referred to the DPP to consider a prosecution since new rules relating to police misconduct were brought in a fortnight

ago. Under the new regime, before deciding whether to prosecute the DPP must seek the advice of independent Treasury counsel and if she disagrees with it, consult the Attorney General and Solicitor General.

The jury's verdict on the malicious prosecution claim amounts to a finding that officers lied at a criminal trial of charges that Mr Smith had assaulted a member of the public and two officers. The jury also heard evidence of racial abuse by officers, including calling Mr Smith a "black kaffir". The judge instructed the jury that while Mr Smith had not "played the race card", they were entitled when assessing damages to take into account the fact that he was black and that there could have been a racial element to the case.

#### INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS CURRENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 16 AUGUST 1997 **ACCOUNTS OPEN TO NEW INVESTORS** 

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# 'Spies' to pose as travellers to test rail inquiries



Better to join The Railway Children and flag down your own train than wait for rail Inquiries to answer?

Photograph: The Kobal Collection

Transport Correspondent

The information handed out by train companies on the national telephone inquiry service could face a new inquiry into its the train companies' complaints

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plans being considered by the rail regulator.

The investigation, which could be launched next month, is being floated because the first inquiry has been hampered by accuracy and impartiality, under that the "service has improved".

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see hundreds of investigators posing as passengers to see whether the National Rail Inquiry Service provides accu-rate information about fares and

train times. The results of the first in- date.

currently being considered by the regulator's office. The problem for officials is that many train companies say that the re-

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to make sure they match or beat everyone else's.

The new investigation could vestigation, which was com-ee hundreds of investigators pleted earlier this year, are date that, frankly, it will not be operator. worth publishing," said one railway manager. This attitude has, unsurprisingly, found little

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When John Swift QC, the rail regulator, recently raised the is-'sue of the poor performance of train companies say that the results are now completely out of date.

favour with the regulator who some operators he was told that "things have improved greatly". This was not borne out

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"The data will be so out of formation by a telephone by the *Independent's* inquiries ate that, frankly, it will not be operator. yesterday which found that despite the fact telephone operators were able to answer calls promptly they were not able to

> The news comes a day after train companies were given a month to answer more passenger calls or face hefty fines. Mr Swift has warned the 25 companies that they would face ac-tion if things did not improve. He said today that he had de-cided to make what is called a "final order" because services provided by the service had not got better. The order can only be lifted by Mr Swift which means that the train companies could be fined every week that the telephone services fails to

provide accurate information.

meet the regulator's targets.

Mr Swift told the *Today* programme that in June and July the rail companies had plans to boost the proportion of calls an-swered to 90 per cent. "They haven't made it. They're stuck at about 81 per cent. My view is that there will come a time when I will decide that I can't wait forever until I see these

He said British Telecom would monitor over the next four weeks, starting on Sunday the number of incoming calls to the service and the proportion of those which were answered.

In June, almost half of callers to the inquiry service were not getting through. Under the reg-ulator's performance standards. only one in 10 calls should go

The fines could reach millions of pounds. For every percentage point of calls not answered between 85 per cent and 90 per cent, train companies will be docked £50,000. Companies will face a £100,000 fine for every percentage point between 75 per cent and 85 per cent, while for every point below 75 per cent there will be fined at

£200.000. Experts say that the operators have resorted to hiring cheap labour to man the telephone centres. Barry Doe, a timetable and fares expert, said: "The staff running the system are being employed to deal with a very complicated system. Telephone operators cannot replace train

### Passengers take the strain down the telephone

■ An Independent reporter, posing as a passenger who fare from London to

Merely by pretending to want to end up in Lockerbie, which normally involves a change at Edinburgh Haymarket, a passenger from London can get a cheaper ticket than the standard

London to Edinburgh fare. According to the rules - set out in the rail regulator's rout-ing guide - tickets with loop-holes like this should not be sold. But the reporter is told the fare exists.

Operator: (after 30 rings) 12 o'clock from King's Cross, arrives at Haymarket at 16:44. Get a connecting train that departs at 17:14 and arrives 18:10 at Lockerbie." Reporter: "How much?" Operator: "£53 return." Reporter: "Where is

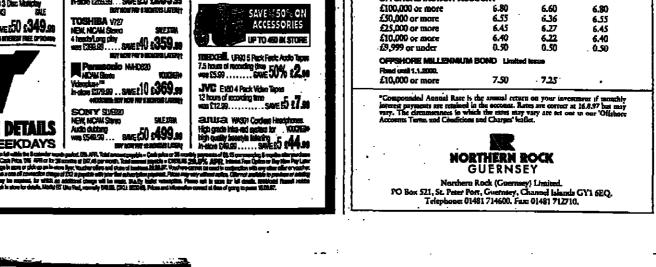
Haymarket?" Operator: "I'll have a look ... Oh, actually it is above Lockerbie. You have to go up to Edinburgh and then come down."

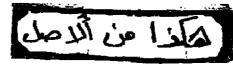
Reporter: "That means I can get a £53 ticket to Edinburgh?" Operator: "(Laughs ...) Oh no, that's at least a £60 saver. I don't know why that happens.

I don't make the fares up. Reporter: "So I can save £10 every time I go to Edinburgh by pretending I am going to Lockerbie?"

Operator: "(Nervous giggle ...) It is odd but I don't know who makes the fares up."

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New wave: Wellknown names that are leading the resurgence of British interior design include Emily Todd-Hunte (right) and Nicky Photographs: Interior

## Inside story on the new high fashion

Media Correspondent

We are all, it seems, delighting in the domestic. After claims that cooking was the new rock 'n' roll come indicators showing interior design to be the new hot trend of the moment.

Whether it be the fan-club gathering around the carpenter Andy Kane in the BBC's decoration show Changing Rooms or the survey showing 17 per cent of building society windfalls will be spent on furniture and carpets, nesting is very now. Magazines dealing with home, from the ice-cool minimalist Wallpaper to the more tradi-

vertising pages bulge. Heals furniture and fittings store reports sales up 18 per cent.

The simple explanation is that the boom is down to the health of the housing market. But Sue Crewe, editor of House & Garden, believes more fundamental instincts are operating: "Even people in their midtwenties and thirties are discovering the pleasure of creating an interior, which is very young. I think it is because everything else is so homogeneous, the same shops clog the high streets but at home you can

express your individuality. Suzy Hoodless, interiors ed-

are far more design-conscious. Design consciousness has ex-tended from fashion into other areas of life."

Robert Whitaker, manager of the Fulham Road branch of the Fired Earth tile company, believes the boom is prompted by television and magazines: "The proliferation of ... programmes like Home Front has definitely had an effect. It is more than just the buzz in the shop when the designers off the TV are in here. People are more willing to have a go themselves and attempt much more sophisticated projects."

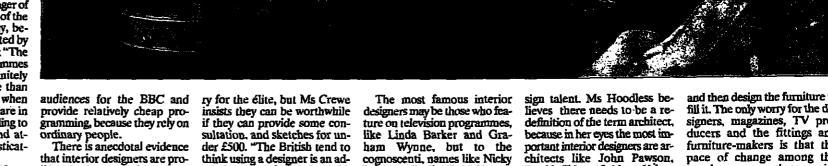
Programmes like Home Front, Changing Rooms and All

that interior designers are pro-At £50 an hour for the cheap— "Which is ... dotty, because we and Jonathan Reed are leading Salon, who design not just déterior design may est they may seem like a luxu- don't try to fill our own teeth." a wave of British successful decor, but change whole spaces new rock 'n' roll

cognoscenti, names like Nicky mission of defeat," she said. Haslam, Emily Todd-Hunter

David Chipperfield or Urban

and then design the furniture to fill it. The only worry for the deducers and the fittings and furniture-makers is that the pace of change among the terior design may become the



### ssengers take u strain down he telephone

#### Des res takes on a pink tinge as estate agents spot a sale Michael Streeter

Building developers and estate agents are increasingly targeting the gay community as a potential market for new and renovated homes.

Around the country building firms are advertising houses and flats in the gay press and at gay events in an effort to increase In select parts of central London such as Covent Garden, where homosexuals can form up to half the residential population, the trend is going one step further, with some offices and homes being developed specifically to appeal to the gay com-

agent a spokeswoman said flats

style and features, and at high-er cost than normal to reflect what is perceived, as the both the higher artistic expectations and larger spending power of wealthy gay professionals. The spokeswoman said: "De-

velopers are paying attention to providing clean lines, extra At one Covent Garden estate. space, wooden floors, nickel taps and that kind of thing. A were being built with more lot of gays who live around here

are very successful, working in the City, or the media, and have the money and the taste to pay for it." She added: "Their homes are making a statement to visitor.

Developers have also built offices in nearby Soho which are advertised as "gay-friendly", she said.

Bridge estate agents, who han- about location than anything

she said. are trying to please them and Tim Mulligan, director of satisfy their needs. It's more

Paul Clements, editor of The Pink Paper, Britain's largest gay ception that many lesbian and

die developments in London's else." Homebuilders Beliway paper, which carries adverts gay people with no children had shoreditch area, said they maradvertise at the annual Mardi for housing in its pages, said the high disposable incomes, but warned that it only concerned

of their policy to market their homes as widely as possible.

"It's not solely about having gay people in the properties - they are open to anyone. But we are trying to please them and the solution of the community.

"It's not solely about having of their policy to market their nity.

"I absolutely support the way that gays are having houses marketed for them."

Peter Talchell of the community.

"This is a solution for well-off middle-class professional gay people but it does nothing to please them and the policy to market their nity.

"This is a solution for well-off middle-class professional gay people but it does nothing to please them and the policy to market their nity.

"The community.

"This is a solution for well-off middle-class professional gay people but it does nothing the policy to market their nity.

"The community.

"The communit Peter Tatchell, of gay-rights campaigners OutRage!, said the trend reflected the perhomosexuals living in rundown inner city housing estates."

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Wednesday 20 August

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Friday 22 August

LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (FINANCE/BUSINESS/LAW)

LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (SCIENCE & ENGINEERING)

Sunday 24 August

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Tuesday 26 August Thursday 28 August

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Sunday 31 August

LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (LANGUAGES)

Wednesday 3 September Sunday 7 September LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (SCIENCE & ENGINEERING)

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Sunday 14 September

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### Cardiff is wooed by a tall, dark stranger

Peter Mandelson was in sunsoaked Cardiff bright and early yesterday to press a case for Welsh devolution.

The Minister Without Portfolio struck a chord with a large crowd outside HMV in Queens Street, where Stereophonics were launching a new single, "A Thousand

The band, from the Cynon Valley, watched while Mi Mandelson autographed posters for the new record. Their leader, Kelly Jones, was moved to promise: "You've got my vote for an assembly. I must say our music isn't particularly political, but Wales needs a voice of its own."

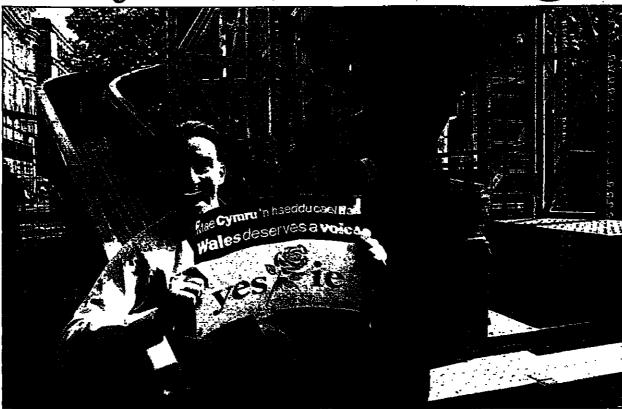
Mr Mandelson's line, "A strong 'Yes' vote on 18 September will give the people of Wales the opportunity to develop distinctive policies reflecting their special needs," seemed well-received. The only snag was that most of the hundreds present were under 18 - too young to vote in the 18 September referendum. Jessica Price, a local sixthformer, said: "If I was old enough I suppose I'd vote 'Yes'." Then she hurried into the record shop to buy the new offering.

Four 15-year-olds from Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan – an affluent area where off-roaders appear to outnumber Mondeos - were more enthusiastic. "I think it's a pity we don't have an Assembly," Rhodri Williams said. "Actually, I support Plaid Cymru, but on this everyone should get together."
A statue of Aneurin Bevan

a name not much mentioned by New Labour - guards one end of the pedestrianised shopping street. At the other a helter-skelter stood invitingly. Mr Mandelson needed little persuading to ride a coconut mat down the 60ft descent not once, but twice.

Mrs Pauline Smith, a Romany gipsy, then offered to read the ministerial hand and tried to interest its owner in a lucky charm. Mr Mandelson declined both offers.

"He looks like a tall dark stranger to me," said Mrs Smith. "What did you say his name was?"



Spinning down: Mr Mandelson with Peter Hain MP in Cardiff yesterday

Photograph: Huw Evans Picture Agency

# blunder allows Nazis to get away

lan Burrell

Nearty 150 Nazi skinheads were able to stage a rock concert in the Midlands after they slipped through the net of a police operation to contain them, it emerged yesterday.

Searchlight, the Anti-Fascist organisation, said the event took place last weekend at a community hall in a suburb of Coventry.

Hundreds of police had earlier been involved in an operation to prevent a large-scale rally taking place in South Wales. Almost 1,000 skinheads, including contingents from Germany. Holland and France, were stopped by police patrols and turned back.

Gerry Gable, editor of the or-anisation's magazine, Searchight, said that a small hardcore group of skinheads had rerouted to Coventry, where the concert took place in the

evening. He said: "Until then, the police operation had been firstclass. Why did the wheel come off the wagon in the West Mid-

The event, intended to take place in the Welsh valleys, had been widely advertised in farright literature across Europe and skinhead bands from the United States and Germany had been invited to play. But Searchlight was able to

alert the police who ran a special control-room in South by their overseas counterparts Wales for two weeks, monitoring the planned event. Wales European Parliament

MP called on the authorities to make every effort to stop the concert taking place. Last week, a 29-year-old Cardiff man was arrested and charged with public order of-

and seized weapons and literature. Members of an American band that had flown to Britain from Oregon to take part were turned back by immigration

fences after police raided his flat.

On Saturday, as the skin-heads tried to find an alterna-

tive venue, a huge police operation led by the South Wales and Leicestershire forces helped to contain them as they moved east, over the English

border and into the Midlands. Warwickshire Police had monitored a group of neo-Nazis who had gathered outside a pub to the east of Coventry.
"We were aware of their presence but there wasn't any trouble," said a spokeswoman for

the force. But Searchlight said this group then met up with other skinheads at a hall, two miles away in Coventry, in the West Midlands force area. Police were not present at the event nor were they called on to attend.

Last night, Mr Gable said that the anti-fascist movement was nevertheless delighted that the full-scale rally which had been planned by the racist Blood and Honour organisation had failed to go ahead as planned.

He said: "I think our operation has been a success because there has been an arrest in Wales and exclusions of some of the Americans. No foreign bands were able to play in the final event and the numbers were reduced from up to 1,000 to less than 150."

The failings of the rally will have caused a considerable loss of face for the British skinheads who were once revered but have been repeatedly unable to stage large-scale con-Glenys Kinnock, the South certs which are commonplace

in Germany. that members of the far-right Combat 18 group are planning to cause trouble in Denmark this weekend as part of a Nazi commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy.

The authorities in Roskilde have controversially allowed the event, where supporters dress in Nazi costume and carry flags with swastikas, despite despread violence when the rally took place in the town two



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# Police Junder allows lazisto et away

### Cyprus peace talks collapse into chaos

Constantine Buhayer Montreux

The Swiss lakeside resort of Montreux has joined an illustri-ous list: that of places where the leaders of the Greek and Turk-

ish communities have failed to reach an agreement on Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot President,

Glafcos Clerides, and the Turk-ish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denk-tash, arrived last Monday at their hotel perched in splendid isolation above Lake Geneva. Under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General, and coached by diplomats from the European Union, United States, Britain, Sweden, Greece, Turkey, Russia

without agreement. Cyprus to join the After the end of the talks, Mr in January 1998. Diego Cordovez, special adviser to the Secretary-General, condemned the two sides for leaking top-secret discussion papers that were intended purely as a series of proposals open

"The leakage to the press caused damage because you

cannot negotiate publicly," he said. Mr Cordovez acknowledged that a main task of his job will be to reduce such instances that help trip up the peace process in Cyprus.

The failure of the talks re-

flects negatively on his own recent involvement in the Cyprus problem. During last month's meeting of the two sides in Troutbeck, near New York, he had forecast that Montreaux would be a "defining moment".

Yesterday, both Cypriot sides were critical of his efforts, but the diplomats present showed much greater understanding. Mr Denktash accused the

EU of "throwing a bombshell" in its Agenda 2000 which inand other countries, they discluded the announcement that cussed their differences - but accession negotiations for Cyprus to join the EU will begin If that aspect of the agenda is

accepted by the EU Council of Ministers, meeting during the Luxembourg summit next December, he promised to stop the negotiations. "We object because the EU application was made by the Greek Cypriots; and no Cypriot government has rep-

the last 34 years." He accused the Greek Cypriot side of attempting to colonise the Turkish Cypriof north through the EU.

One hour later. President Clerides promised that "if there is any interference in the accession process I will not be ne-

gotiating".

Turkish and Turkish Cypriot diplomatic sources said that if the EU negotiations with Cyprus begin, it will be a defacto recognition by Brussels that the island consists of two sovereign states. The Turks argue that since the Greek side technically fulfils the Maastricht criteria for both EMU and accession, there is only the political side left to sort out.

"The Greeks will blackmail the EU into dropping any po-litical reservations they may have about the problem," said an analyst from the Turkish foreign ministry.

The Greek Cypriots spoke of failure. The UN was slightly more optimistic. "We are back where we started, but not entirely," Mr Cordovez told a press conference yesterday.

### Under the shadow of Montserrat's volcano



A church and cemetery in a village in the Soufriere Hills on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat devastated by volcanic eruptions. The island's Photograph: Carlos Hemandez/Reuters capital, Plymouth, is now almost totally deserted

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Northern Rock Building Society, Principal Office, Northern Rick House, Gosfrith, Newcostle upon Tyne NES APL

#### NatWest Mortgage Rate

With effect from 15 April 1997 for borrowers whose applications • have been signed but whose mortgages have not been drawn, and from 1 September 1997 for existing borrowers, the NotWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be increased from 8.20% to 8.45%. This change will be reflected in existing

borrowers' repayments from 5 or 22 September 1997.

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see page 24

FIN TO WAS APPLICATED



### Warm welcome in France for Blair

Joanna Lee

Excitement is mounting in the tiny French village of Saint-Martin-d'Oydes as residents prepare to welcome the Prime iday home in the southern Minister, his wife Cherie and their three children. The family will stay in the 12th century country house belonging to the judge David Keene QC, and the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin will be staying around 20 Lang: sees Britain joining miles away. It is likely that the European Monetary Union two prime ministers will meet Labour government has a fresh two prime ministers will meet Labour government has a fresh,

informally some time next week.

Mr Blair will also be able to bask in the praise and support of the French Socialists, who were delighted by his electoral victory. Speaking from his holregion of Bouches-du-Rhône, Jack Lang, the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Socialist MP and former Minister of Culture during the Mitterand years, will not hear a bad word said against the British

young spirit about it that shows great promise for the future," he said.

"Although I found the electoral campaign somewhat reserved and cautious, I have been very impressed by the proposals of the Government over the last three months, par-ticularly regarding decentralisation, health and education,"

Mr Lang draws parallels be-Britain today. In 1981, President Mitterrand became the first ever Socialist president and ap-

He remained in power for 14 years, leading a left wing government for ten of those.

"The mood of both the Government and the people during this period in France was very similar to that in Britain today. People had a new confidence and enthusiasm, as well as a strong sense of liberation. This atmosphere is very important if the Government is to be successful."

more interventionist, compared with Mr Blair's more liberal approach. But Mr Lang explains that "this difference in policy is due more to a difference in culture and tradition, than to a fundamental difference in ideology." He is keen to underline the two leaders' "common interest in human rights and

social causes, as well as a grow-

pointed the first left-wing gov-much as New Labour has. Mr ment's foreign policy. "It is the single currency will go erument for over two decades. Jospin's approach is still far positive, constructive and pro-ahead as planned in 1999, and gressive, incorporating an he also believes that Britain will international humanitarian vision'. Mr. Lang has even written to the French foreign and defence ministers, Hubert Vedrine and Alain Richard, advising them to follow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook's lead in .

with poor human rights records. Mr Lang believes that Mr Government is to be successful." ing, dynamic economy."

The French Socialist party of today has not modernised as astic about the Labour govern
Blair's European policy is in keeping with British politics. However, he is convinced that Blair's European policy is in that he will come to the right keeping with British politics. decision." - that Britain is bet-

banning arms sales to countries

enter at some stage, although probably not in the first round.

"If the Government and the people need more time, so be it. It is better that Britain enters in her own time and of her own accord, rather than being forced ... Mr. Blair is serious and attentive in his approach to European affairs and I believe ter off in than out.

### Striking a blow for tolerance in Memphis, the city of the Kings

David Usborne Memphis

There are ten of us on the forecourt of what was once the Lorraine Motel, on tiny Mulberry Street in downtown Memphis. You would think there would be more of us. These days it is the National Civil Rights Museum and above us is Room 306 and the balcony where on 4 April 1968, Dr Martin Luther King was shot dead.

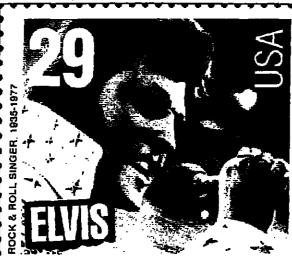
The hordes visiting Memphis this week are interested in another king altogether. It is only five blocks from here to the newly-opened Elvis Presley Memohis restaurant on Beale Street, where, at five in the afternoon, the fans are cramming behind the velvet ropes to wait an hour for a table inside

The contrast - the nearly vacant tarmac at the Lorraine versus the crush at the restaurant and even more at Presley's Graceland home - invites a snobbish reaction. What are ley before him? But Presley's they doing flocking to honour an entertainer who died fat and feckless when they could be and blues sound that had been here learning about the greatest civil rights leader America artists, added inspiration from

Because these people are on lated it into rock and roll for the holiday. Because eating deep- mainstream, black and white. fried peanut butter – one of the king's favourites - is a giggle. Because peeking at the gold-leaf wash hasins aboard the Elvis' private jetliner, the Lisa Marie, at Graceland is fun. Because Dr King could sermonise but could not sing. And because today is 20 years since Elvis' death.

And maybe because they know that Elvis mattered also. Who influenced America more in the second half of the century, King or the King? Discuss.

Ask the Nixon Library which photograph is most requested by its visitors - the President with Presley. Ask the US Post Office which of its commemoothers - the 1993 Elvis stamp. Ask RCA Records who is the ally changed overnight".



biggest-selling artist of all time - Elvis, of course. It may be a stretch to say that Elvis was the father of Rock and Roll. What about Louis Jordan or Bill Hamusical legacy is unanswer-Graceland shrine are white. able. He borrowed the rhythm the domain of mostly black

Wink Martindale, a TV game show host today, this week reminisced about the evening in July 1954 when Sam Phillips of Sun Records came into the Memphis radio station where he worked with the first Elvis single ever, That's Alright Marna and, on the flip side, Blue Moon. Until then, the station's ratings had depended on giving black music to its white teenage au-

gospel and country, and trans-

When they heard the record, "everyone thought Elvis was black", Martindale remembered. "We immediately knew that something really special was happening, but not one of us unrative stamps has outsold all derstood that the course of popular music was being liter-

beat to the white population was arguably as great a gift to racial integration as any achieved by Dr King. It is ironic then, that almost all of those mobbing the

More seminal was the impact on buttoned-down fifties America of Elvis' sexually-charged, pelvis-grinding stage perfor-mances, especially his early appearances on television. So deep was the shock over his gyrations and his phallic guitar gesturing, that by his fourth appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, viewers were only allowed to see him from the waist up. "Elvis was the first public con-

troversy of the silent, fifties generation," says John Bakker Professor at the University Of Memphis and an Elvis scholar. People, until then, had not argued about anything, not even about Korea. And from Elvis came the seeds of the social and cultural revolution that hit America in the sixties".

Hard to fathom, however, is the power of Elvis mania today. His record sales have hit a billion and a half and are accelerating. Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE), which owns erating.

The Presley legacy Evis Presiev's first 10 number ones in the UK All Shook Up - June 1957 Jallhouse Rock - Jan '58 One Night - Jan '59 A Fool Such As I - April

It's Now Or Never - Oct Are You Lonesome Tonight? - Jan '61

Wooden Heart - Mar 61 Wild in The Country - Aug Rock A Hula Baby

The delivery of the black Graceland and the Presley image, is a multi-million-dollar concern that has plans for a casino and hotel at Graceland and for a world-wide chain of Elvis restaurants. London should have one soon.

What is driving the craze? Is it EPE, which works so hard to protect Elvis from negative publicity - there will, for instance, never be a video of his last concert tour when his oncehandsome features had become marshmallow. Conversely the Elvis muck-raking of the tabloid media? Or the "Elvis lives" nut-cases who keep seeing him at their supermarkets? Or the legion of Elvis lookalikes

the world over? Or is it, simply, the voice? Spare a thought, meanwhile, for Dr King. The 30th anniversary of his death is just nine months away. What kind of ballyhoo will that get? Not much of a one to judge by the small table offering Civil Rights Museum souvenirs at Memphis Airport gift shop this week. Eclipsed by the nearby monster Elvis display, it has a small plastic sign on it that pleads: 'Clearance Sale".



#### significant shorts

#### Two killed as gunmen ambush Bosnian Muslims

Two Bosnian Muslims were killed and another was wounded by automatic gunfire in eastern Bosnia, Muslim-Croat federation authorities said. The shooting took place near a former front line in a village inhabited by Serbs before the 1992-95 Bosnian war, the federation said. The federation interior ministry said the Muslims were ambushed by gunmen as they drove to cut firewood in the Sapna region. Reuters - Saraievo

#### Albania peace verdict

The UN Security Council has registered the end of a peace-keeping mission it authorised for Albania. In a statement read at a formal meeting after hours of scripted speeches, the council said the mandate of the 7,000-strong Italian-led force had been fulfilled successfully but that the Albanian people and leaders had primary responsibility for the future of their country.

#### Hong Kong's moist record

The first eight months of this year have been Hong Kong's wettest period in 113 years, since records began in 1884, weather experts said. During the period 2,611.3mm of rain was recorded, breaking the record of 2,610.4 mm set in Reuters - Hong Kong

#### Hungarian challenge

The Hungarian Prime Minister, Gyula Horn, challenged his Slovak counterpart, Vladimir Meciar, to end delays in safeguarding the rights of Slovakia's 500,000 ethnic Hungarians. After discussing with Mr Meciar a nine-point Hungarian plan to improve relations between the countries, Mr Horn said responsibility for ending tension lay squarely with the Slovak government, Reuters - Gvor

#### A quiet end

A matron allegedly confessed to killing at least 18 patients so that she would not be disturbed at night and then so that she would not be disturbed at mgm and men jumped from a third-storey room in a suicide attempt. Aida Nur el-Din, 42, allegedly killed the patients with drugs stolen from the hospital dispensary, the Egyptian AP - C:

### First children join Hong Kong fathers

**Stephen Vines** Hong Kong

The first batch of Chinese-born children entitled to live in Hong Kong under a controversia new scheme entered the terri-tory yesterday clutching hur-riedly issued certificates of

Ranging in age from two years old to twenty one, the 153 immigrants passed across the

spring who have the right to live in Hong Kong under its new mini-constitution, the Basic Law. This says any child with a Hong Kong resident as a parent is en-titled to live in the territory.

The large numbers of men crossing the border from Hong Kong has ensured the birth of

border at Lowu to what their even larger numbers of children the purpose of the scheme is to because the government adopt- damental rights are being taken parents hope will be a more prosperous future. They are among more than 66,000 off-Having given these children new rights, the incoming gov-

ernment got cold feet, fearing that the social services and schools would be swamped with hordes of Chinese-born youngsters. One of its first acts was to introduce the certificate of entitlement to stem the influx. Although it is not admitted,

Chinese bureaucracy to decelerate the process of application for residence. However, a great many children who were smuggled into Hong Kong under British rule put a spanner in the works by giving themselves up to the authorities, thinking that now they would be able to remain with legal status.

This proved to be a mistake

use the slow grinding wheels of ed a hard line and started rounding them up for deportation. The deportations have been stopped by a rush of court challenges to be heard next month, which are shaping up to be a constitutional battle led by Hong Kong's top lawyers who argue that the government is breaching its own constitution and undermining the rule of law.

The government says no fun-

away but the exercise of them is ng curtailed by the practical need to verify the status of those applying to live in Hong Kong. These arguments passed over the heads of the children who arrived yesterday. Most looked rather bewildered by the fuss which greeted their arrival.

Others must be wondering what

it will be like to live with fathers

they hardly know.

An Inaugural Offer to the Indian Ocean Paradise Isle of

What could be more pleasurable than to spend a week or two away from an uncertain British climate on the beautiful Indian Ocean paradise island of Grand Comore at the 4-star Le Galawa Beach Hotel. Our soon to be inaugurated flight service to Grand Comore via Kilimanjaro and Luxor enables the traveller to reach these once remote islands directly from the United

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Day 1 Depart London Gatwick in the evening and fly with Monarch Airlines Boeing 757 through the night via Luxor and Kilimanjaro to Grand Comore. Day 2 Arrive in Grand Comore and transfer to Le Galawa Beach Hotel for a stay of seven nights. Days 3 to 8 During the week you may relax, enjoy the many with Monarch Airlines on the return



7 nights half board from£695.00

facilities of the hotel or explore according to your own wishes. Day 9 Depart

via Luxor to Gatwick arriving early next morning. Departure Dates & Prices 1997 Tuesdays - per person in a twin 7 nights Grand Comore

November 4. 11, 18, 25 & December 2, 9, 16 - £695.00 Single room supplement £200.00 Extra Week - Nov 4 to Dec 16 twin £350.00 Nov 4 to Dec 16 single £595.00

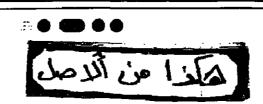
Price includes: transportation throughout, 7 nights accommodation at Le Galawa Beach hotel on a half board basis, UK airport tax. Not included: travel insurance, overseas airport taxes, visa procurement. tipping.

All prices are subject to change. Our current Conditions of Booking (a copy of which will be sent at your request) shall apply to all reservations.

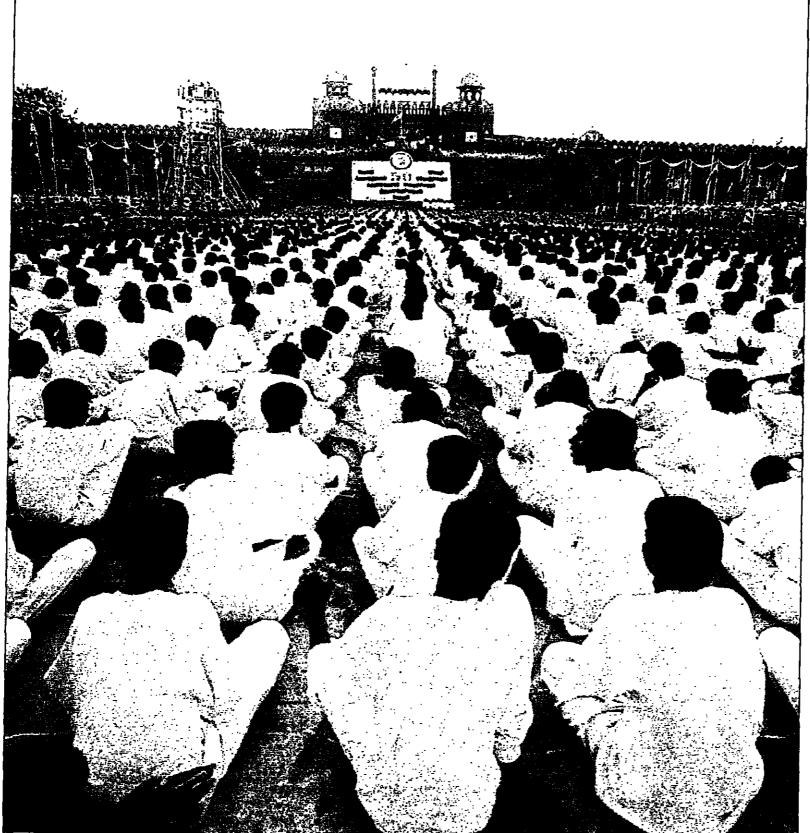


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hoursare Sam to 5pm we







Lessons of history: Rows of schoolchildren listening to a speech by India's Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, at the Red Fort in Delhi yesterday.

As diverse and divided as Pakistan, India has nevertheless been able to maintain 50 years of unbroken democracy

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Pakistan 50 years on: Despite decades of political strife, people still came together

### Celebrations for a country still divided

**Arwar iqba** slamabad

A small crowd at Islamabad's folk festival, held to celebrate Pakistan's 50th independence anniversary, watched as two horses danced to a folk tune. A group of youngsters joined the dance while others clapped to keep the beat. All were dressed in fraditional costumes, but those who watched them were wearing blue jeans, fashionable western trousers and shirts. Unlike the craftsmen, who spoke one of Pakistan's four provincial languages, they spoke a mixture of Urdu and English, the two of-

ficial languages of the country. But not all in the crowd were alike. Those from Islamabad looked cleaner and had a fresh. confident look. Those from the adjacent city of Rawalpindi looked a little different. They were not as fresh as the other group and did not use English.

Those from the nearby villages were different from both the groups. Wearing long cotton shirts and trousers, with little cotton scarves around their shoulders, they gave a distinct rural look. It was a vivid illustration of the different faces of Pakistan, 50 years after independence.

Not all of the country has welcomed the celebrations of the past two days. "All this dancing and singing is a sin, we should not allow this in Pakistan as it was created for Islam." said Naveed Ahmad, a student from a local college and a supporter of the Islamic militant Islami Jamiyat-i-Tulaba group. The group is affiliated with Pak-istan's Jamaat-i-Islami party which opposes such displays of

people have little to eat, our rulers are wasting money on bringing dancers and singers to Islamabad to celebrate the golden jubilee. This can't be permitted," said Jamaat's leader, Kazi Hussain Ahmad, while addressing an independence day rally in the north-western city of Peshawar.

In the northernmost corner of Gilgit, police arrested 16 students for allegedly desecrating the national flag. The people of Gilgit, a semi-independent prin-cipality until 1947, have not been fully merged with the country because Gilgit was tech-nically a part of the disputed Kashmir territory. In the south, a small group of Sindhi nationalists refused to participate in the national celebrations because they claim that the government was turning the native Sindhis into a minority by settling peo-ple from other areas in Sindh.

The other largest ethnic group in Sindh is that of Mohajirs, the Muslim immigrants from India who dominate the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad. Although they came to Pakistan 50 years ago, these people are still struggling to find an identity in Pakistan. They are still called "Mohajirs" which means "refugees" in Urdu and

The religious divide has pitched Pakistan's Sunni maority and its small but powerful Shiite minority against each other. Hundreds of people have been killed in religious and ethnic violence in Pakistan during the current year.

Then there are those who see Pakistan as part of the SubThere are others who see Pakistan as integrated with the greater Muslim world of Central Asia and the Middle East and don't want to hear about any affiliation with India, even

if only cultural.

There is a third group of in-tellectuals, who claim that Pakistan has existed as an entity separate from India even 3000 years ago, when the Indus valley had its own identity.

Fifty years of political instability and economic deprivation has further complicated the scene. There are more than 20 political parties in the country which keep wrestling with each other for power. This continued bickering has allowed few elected governments to complete their tenure, and the army has ruled Pakistan for 25 of its 50 years of independence.

This is what the intellectuals in Pakistan describe as the country's identity crisis. But somehow these crises only seem to bother the country's politicians and intellectuals. Most Pakistanis have learnt to live with their country's complex and often confusing cultural, ethnic, religious and political divides.

Abdul Huq, a senior accountant at a multi-national company, said: "I live in Is-lamabad which is a modern city. I work on computers. Surf the Internet. Exchange business messages with Europe and North America every day and yet when hear the call for prayers, I turn off my computer, move my face towards Mecca and say my prayers. I see no

# North Korea in from diplomatic wilderness

Richard Lloyd Parry Tokyo

In the latest sign of a mounting international effort to open links to North Korea, Japan announced yesterday that it will hold talks aimed at establishing full diplomatic relations with the embattled Stalinist government.

The announcement was given added symbolism by its timing, on the 52nd anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of the Second World War, which also marked the Koreas' liberation from 35 years as a Japanese colony. The meeting, to be held at the Japanese embassy in Peking next Thursday, will aim to establish an agenda for formal talks on normalisation, which have been suspended since 1992.

The talks between the two governments will be elevated to deputy director level so as to move the process more effi- an defectors suggests that the ciently," the Japanese foreign missing people may have been minister, Yukihiko Ikeda, said abducted by North Korean

The diplomatic challenge of dealing with North Korea is especially complicated for Japan. No country, apart from South Korea, has more to lose in a potential conflict on the peninsula, which is less than a hundred miles from Japan at the closest point. Over the years, politicians from Tokyo have made frequent unofficial visits to Pyongyang, whose economy has been immeasurably helped by contributions from ethnic

Koreans living in Japan. But, publicly at least, Kore-ans North and South are unable to forgive Japan for its brutal annexation of their country in 1910. Recently, a bizarre complication has arisen in the form of 20 or so missing persons cases, reported in remote coastal regions on Japan in the late

Evidence from North Kore-

spies and transported by boat to

Pyongyang, where some are still living.

The North Koreans walked out of the last set of talks in 1992, after Japanese diplomats raised the issue. But recently, the North Koreans have hinted that they are willing to consider another Japanese request for home visits by some 1800 Japanese women who moved to the North after marrying Korean men.

Last year, Tokyo sent \$5.2m-worth of food aid to the North to alleviate the creeping famine there, but suspended further aid after the abduction allegations. Last week, however, after months of procrastination. North Korean officials joined American, Chinese and South Korean counterparts for preparatory peace talks in New York. Since then, and in the face of a worsening of the food situation, international attitudes to further aid appear to have

### Japan seeks to bring Germans brace for Hess demos

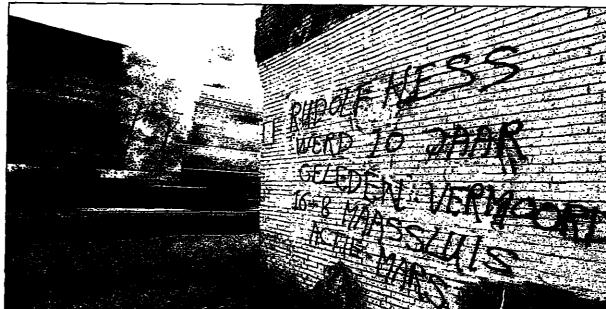
German authorities have banned right-wing demonstra-tions nationwide this weekend to head off anticipated gather-ings on the 10th anniversary of Rudolf Hess' death.

Neo-Nazi groups have not announced marches in any specific city in Germany, but the anniversary of Hitler deputy Hess's death on August 17, 1987 is typically marked by

right-wing demonstrations. German neo-Nazis were also expected to join a planned demonstration in neighbouring Denmark. Yesterday, German border police prevented two extremists with baseball bats and stun-guns in their trunk from crossing into Den-

Each of Germany's 16 states, meanwhile, has enacted restrictions on neo-Nazi extremist activities this weekend. The south-eastern state of Baden-Wurttemberg is requiring 116 known extreme right-wing activists to check in with the authorities throughout the next

In Bavaria, a demonstration registered in Wunsiedle, where Hess is buried, has been forbidden. Further east in Thueringen, police arrested two



Right-wing graffiti in Rotterdam, Holland, which says 'Rudolf Hess was murdered 10 years ago' Photograph: Reuters

neo-Nazis on their way to a memorial gathering for Hess in Nuemberg. They also confis-cated over 100 extreme-right

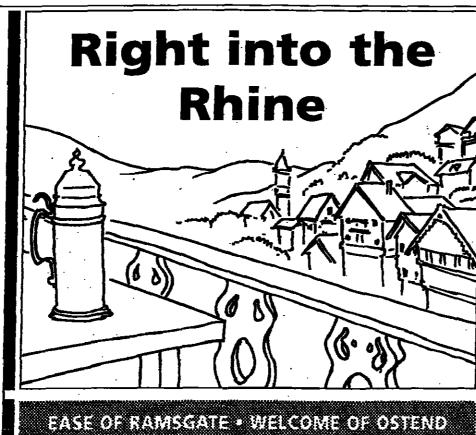
flags, flyers, CDs and T-shirts. There is also likely to be one main gathering," Erwin Hetger, head of police in the southern state of Baden-Wurttemberg,

Hess hanged himself with an electric cord in Berlin's Spandau prison on 17 August, 1987, and the date has become a rallying point for the radical right in Germany and other European countries in recent

Last year German police detained 160 right-wing activists on the ninth anniversary, while hundreds of neo-Nazis battled with police in Sweden, Norway and Germany's neighbour Denmark, which permits such

anniversary provides the occa-

presence of right-wing thuggery and the appeal of Nazism within a country still acutely aware of its past. The recent surge in joblessness to levels not seen since Hitler's rise to power has, Germany, Hess's at a time when Germany has seen new waves of immigrants sion for much public soul-searching about the continued added to the concern.



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### Boy, 14, shoots babysitter then kills himself

Dryden (Reuter) - A 14-yearold American boy apparently shot to death the babysitter he was suspected of abducting. He then killed himself after a car chase near the north-west Ontario town of Dryden, police said on Thursday. Kimberly Ann Kalinowski

22, of Livonia, Michigan, and the teenager, whom police did not name, headed north last week after the boy apparently had a fight with his mother, Michigan police said, according to the Canadian Press.

Ms Kalinowski made a phone call from Toledo, Ohio, earlier in the week, but there was no sign of the two until they were seen near Dryden. Dryden police constable Geoff Hariley

Police chased a car after getting an armed robbery complaint from a hotel in Wabigoon, south of Dryden. The high-speed chase ended when the car ran into a lamp-

Once police reached the car, they found that Ms Kalinowski and the teenager had both been shot in the head. An autopsy showed that Ms Kalinowski, who was driving,

died instantly. The teenager died shortly after the crash in a hospital. Mr Hartley said it appeared the boy shot Ms Kalinowski be-

fore turning the gun on himself. A 22-calibre handgun was found in the vehicle, he said. Michigan police had issued

an arrest warrant for the youth on charges he had abducted the

### Cloudbusters try to end the curse of China's Sorrow

**Teresa Poole** reports on the hi-tech attempts to tame the Yellow River

Xining — The rain-makers of Qinghai province have taken aim at the clouds above the upper reaches of the Yellow River in the latest desperate attempt to alleviate the drought along the path of the once-

mighty river. China's second-longest river has for centuries been referred to as "China's Sorrow" because of the millions of people killed in disastrous flooding. These days, it manages still to offer the

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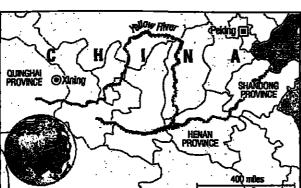
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potential for devastating seasonal floods, while also suffering from too little water the rest

Over the next week, the Yellow River is set to break the record for the number of days pletely dry along its lower section, leaving farmland parched and threatening the autumn's harvest. eral months of the year the riv-

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Rising high upon the Qing-hai plateau in western China, the Yellow River - in reality an orange-brown colour - is a 3,000-mile lifeline through eight provinces before reaching the Bohai Sea off Shandong during which it has run com- Province. Some 180 million people live along its path.

The problem is that for sev-

3,04 2,40 2,12

3.38

miles before it gets anywhere near the sea. And the dry periods are getting progressively longer, last year's record of 136 dry days in the lower reaches is about to be broken, threat-ening the livelihoods of 52

million people and seven million hectares of crops, the China Daily said this week. This year the dry river bed has reached further than ever, all the way up into Henan province. Just 20 years ago, the dry river period in Shandong would normally last only a couple of weeks or so. At the Qinghai Province Weather Modification Centre,

in Xining city, the rain engineers have taken direct action this year, for the first time turning their rain-making arsenal towards the skies above the headwaters of the Yellow River. Six years of below-average rainfall in north-west China has reduced the inflow into the upper reaches of the river, exacerbating the problems caused further downstream where the flow is being exhausted by the sed irrigation and industrial demands of a growing

before a row of computers showing cloud densities and air flow patterns above the mountains of Qinghai as they decide whether or not to strike. Zhao Shixiong, the senior engineer, is on the lookout every

thick. "I read all this data and see all the conditions are met, and then I can send the aircraft," Mr Zhao said.

Between April and mid-June this year, Mr Zhao despatched aircraft six times to the skies above the upper reaches of the Yellow River, armed with liquid nitrogen. They sprayed it inside the clouds to create small ice droplets which fell as rain. From late June, they switched to using land-based anti-aircraft guns, which fired silver iodide crystals into the clouds to seed the rainclouds. As a result of these onslaughts, there was an estimated net inflow of manmade rain into the Yellow River of 260 million cubic metres, about 1.2 per cent of the river's annual flow in Qinghai.

Until this year, Qinghai's rain-making had taken place only above its eastern farmlands, to water the crops which often died because of lack of natural rain. The new target clouds above the upper reaches of the Yellow River were not, however, assaulted out of benevolence for downstream compatriots. The pilot 1 million yuan (£77,000) project was financed by the Qinghai elec-tricity Bureau, worried about falling water levels behind the dam at Qinghai's Longyangxia hydro-electric station.

It is not, sadly, within the powers of the Qinghai rainmen to solve the problems of the Yel-

ernment has belatedly woken up to the need to encourage water conservation, and the search is also on in north-west China for viable new underground water supplies. In the most ambitious plan, one massive scheme has been mooted to divert water northwards from the upper reaches of the Yangtze River

expensive engineering project ever gets off the drawing board remains to be seen.

For the time being, Mother Nature still has the final laugh. The amount of water coursing through the Yellow River is much less than in earlier decades, but the river level is crops were being harvested rain considerably higher because of was not wanted; the heavens hundreds of miles through vast! "the huge amounts of silt de-" opened above eastern Qinghai; tunnels and aqueducts into the posited on the river bed. The a totrential downpour started Yellow River. Whether such an beight of the river therefore risand did not stop for two days.

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Yellow River, rising in the hills of the north-west, left, is a lifeline for a substantial proportion of China's population, who use the river for irrigation as a source of power and

for domestic needs, above Photographs: Frank Spooner

es by about 10cm a year, and in the northern China plains it flows high above the surrounding land, held back by 800km of artificial dikes. The possibility of unusually heavy rains, or a

breach in a large dike, means

that vast areas are short of wa-

ter for much of the year but also

live under threat from devas-

tating seasonal floods. While millions of farmers along the Yellow River are hit by drought every year, the Chinese government must still spend vast sums of money on flood prevention schemes along the river. To this end, it plans to construct more than 20 dams along the waterway over the next three decades.

For 57-year-old Mr Zhao and his rain-makers, it all too often seems like a cruel joke. Just hours after he showed off his computers to The Indepen-

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**NORTHERN ROCK** 

#### Women fired for speaking **Spanish**

Amarillo (AP) - Rosa Gonza-les and Ester Hernandez were hired by Allied Insurance in this Texas city because they spoke Spanish. They were fixed for the same reason.

The two were "being very

rude for speaking in a lan-guage we don't understand", Linda Polk, co-owner of Allied, said. Ms Gonzales and Ms Hernandez said they spoke regularly to the agency's large Hispanic customer base in Spanish. They said they used the language to speak to each other about work and not for personal chats or se-

cret talk about co-workers. "Being able to speak Spanish is an advantage to us. We don't want our heritage taken away

from us," Ms Gonzales said.

Pat Polk, another co-owner of Allied, issued a memo stating that the office was Englishspeaking "except when we have customers who can't speak our language ... If you can't live with the rules here - Draw your pay and make the rules at your next job." Three women in the office were handed the memo. One signed it, while Ms Hernandez and Ms Gonzales refused and were fired. "When we read it, we were very upset," Ms Gonzales said. "They never warned us."
Ms Polk said Ms Gonzales

Ms Hernandez in March "to speak Spanish to non-American-speaking people" and not to each other. The incident is the second big language-related conflict here in three years. In 1995, a judge ordered a woman to speak English as well as Spanish to her

was hired last November and

five-year-old daughter. English-only rules may violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 unless an employer can show they are necessary for conducting business, according to an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission handbook. A federal appeals court rejected the 1993 claim of workers who sued under circumstances similar to the Allied firings.

The Amarillo chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens said it would promote a boycott of Allied.

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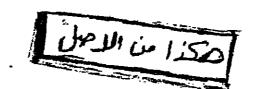
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### A place for Elvis among the gods of Olympus

In the Iliad, Homer gives us fairly precise directions to Olympus, home of the gods. You take a right past the second cypress on Pilion, skirt Ossa and go straight ahead. You can't miss it. Yet the mountain is not just a place, that's to say a real location with geographical co-ordinates. It also exists "out there" in realms of fantasy and myth and "in here" in popular imagination and private veneration.

Memphis, Tennessee is not so dissimilar. Elvis's Memphis is two places. One is the sweaty Mississippi crossing point you get to on I-40 where you can take the tour bus round Sam Phillips' old studio and all the other places we know from the Presley biography, the Memphis Music Hall of Fame and of course Graceland. But Memphis is also a magical and unspecific site which exists inside the imaginations of the King's millions of followers.

Memphis and Olympus have more in common than that. Elvis would find himself at home among the godly crew who used to hang around Zeus's palace - some of them were pretty big eaters, who wouldn't readily turn down an invitation to an orgy. There were flashy dressers, good lookers and good lovers there too, and songs rising in the air. Elvis has certain of the qualifications generally expected in gods - such as immortality (at least 30 years' worth of it and the cult looking good for many decades to come) and invisibility (if you don't count the myriad sightings and his two-a-penny impersonators). Transcendental he may not be, but transcontinental he certainly is, worshipped across the political and religious boundaries of the world, quite a plus in this age of new fundamentalisms. Of course he is American fundamentalisms. Of course he is American and represents the mores of one country, just like Coke and the DOS operating system. Elvis, however, is much, much more than a spiritual stormtrooper for American cultural imperialism. Previous world religious have sprung out of some very peculiar places before, like the Arabian desert, the banks of the Ganges and the Judean uplands and we don't talk about Islamic, Hindu or Christian imperialism.

If Elvis hasn't yet accomplished miracles (outside the pages of the National Inquirer, at least) he undoubtedly performs many of the functions that in other contexts would be labelled religious, providing succour, inspiration, reassurance, hope, affirmation of lifein-death and a modus vivendi for struggling and confused people trying to make it in a difficult world. He may not have been a particularly good man, but he was better than some of the murderers and power-drunk maniacs who have been venerated through the ages.



of the world's major religious traditions, sainthood is closely related to the conditions of saintly death. Visit the Basilica in Padua, for example, in order to inspect St Anthony's various internal organs. In a fair number of instances, and not just in Christianity, the saint's life has been a pretty rum affair, too. You might call Elvis a kind of inverted Augustine. One started off lean and hungry and got fat later on, the other started off with sex, drugs and the fifth-century equivalent of rock and roll and adopted a lean and hungry look only later; both left behind a set of precepts for living (viz. "wise men say...", "I don't want a four-leafed clover").

Besides, Elvis wins the dispensation we tend to award artists. It often doesn't so much matter how they lived, how many illegitimate children they had, or how many jelly and peanut butter sandwiches they scoffed because they produced great works. A good and untimely death excuses even more. Elvis Lives! is more than a slogan. It accurately describes the place the iconic Elvis bas come to occupy in the collective imagination and countless individual minds.

Does that make him a spiritual figure, in the dictionary definition of - "not concerned with external reality, inspired, divine"? It is

It won't do to object that a lot of the Elvis cult is mere necrophilia. After all, in most saintly or less spiritual. Yet we live in strange times. It's not that you cannot tell reason from unreason but that they seem able to coexist remarkably happily in many confused minds. This week we heard of a celebrated psychic consultation but one only undertaken thanks to a helicopter ride - which illustrates the easy co-habitation of technological rationalism (try building a helicopter without a degree in aerodynamics) and wild, incontrovertible faith.

We would not in all seriousness compare Elvis to a real religious figure, despite the unreasoning devotion he inspires. He never asked for that. He was, in the end, only an entertainer, a singer: we would credit him with the intelligence to be aghast at the antics of some of his devotees, could he see them now. He offers no serious code to live by or general philosophy. Yet millions will today be making their pilgrimage to Graceland, whether in body or in imagination, to celebrate a long dead rock and roll singer. In the monotheistic world that much of mankind has inhabited during the past couple of mil-lennia, it seems frankly bizarre. But the old polytheists of Greece and Rome, a rather earthier lot, would have understood it all perfectly. In Olympus, they are swaying and

LETTER from THE EDITOR

has chosen ... yes, an eagle

for its masthead. It is nice to

feel that we are not alone. On

the other hand. I suppose the

whole point of eagles is that

Robin Cook's wife Margaret,

Scotsman of "the overdriven

is attracted to politics: "The

ensures that the individual

mindedness prevent the

become blunted."

workaholic personality" which

perceived necessity to compete

once on the conveyor belt, has

no rest. Ambition and single-

leavening effect of leisure and

'time to stand and stare'. Finer

Kind colleagues with

broad grins have

been asking how I

enjoyed my rainy

holiday – gentle

solicitude for others

being widespread in

this office

This, I have to say, is a

which certain members of the

Marr household would say is

description of male lunacy

politicians. So I am off on

holiday again. Readers may recall Colin Hughes's

description in this spot last

week of our rain-drenched

up to me with broad grins

Devon break. All week kind

colleagues have been coming

asking how I enjoyed myself -

office. But the truth was that

described. Local rivers burst

swimming (undaunted) in the

in the water. The tired phrase

their banks; when we went

sea, the colour and smell of the area's red clay was thick

"swimming in blood" came

suddenly to life. Anyway, we

typhoons shortly in the Bay of

Biscay and an earthquake in

are now off again: knowing

our luck, you can expect

south-west France.

gentle solicitude for others

being widespread in this

it was at least as wet as

not limited to male

feelings and natural emotious

they don't fly in flocks.

whom he has left for his

secretary after a 28-year

marriage, writes in The

uestion: why am I like Piers Morgan, the affable editor of the Mirror –

boyish good looks and the fact

Independent? The answer this

abject apology mode. Piers, following a savage denunciation of *The Sun* over

its coverage of the Grobbelaar

match-fixing charges, then

describing his behaviour as

"complete tosser" and a "juvenile delinquent". The

*Sun*'s editor, Stuart Higgins,

being a man of honour, took

the letter of apology in good

I am hesitant about

part - and promptly leaked it.

describing myself in quite the

colourful terms of Morgan's

haunt you - but an apology is

certainly in order to Indian

readers, above all. Yesterday,

on page three, we published a

"image of saintliness". Except

striking picture of a pensive-

looking Mohandas Gandhi,

that, on closer inspection, it

actor Ben Kingsley dressed up as Gandhi, a still from the film of the same name. For

what it is worth, the mistake

happened because when the

picture desk typed "Gandhi"

into the electronic library

Fotoshop, it produced on-

as well as original archive

screen images from the film

material. On screen, no one

paused to take a second look.

And Kingsley's make-up was

good. But are we pleased by

independence celebrations?

Not hugely. Sorry 'bout that.

The foreign editor brings in

the front page of a Somalian paper, Xorriya. It means

adorned with an eagle, rather

like ours. We seem to have

started something. There is

Independent in South Africa.

We have a corporate link to

that paper through the Irish

Independent and a Korean

Independent; but there is also the eagle-adorned Baltic

the eagle-adorned Sunday

Independent" and is

our contribution to India's

wasn't Gandhi: it was the

letter - these things have a

habit of getting into the

cuttings and returning to

being that of a "total prat", a

wrote to his rival editor,

morning is that I too am in

apart, of course, from the

that Mirror Group is a

shareholder of The

#### ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

#### We're no underclass - just persecuted for being poor

Sir: My class is as good or bad as yours, or Mr Mandelson's, and "under" neither ("Labour task force to help underclass", 14 August). If I am "socially excluded" it is because I do not have the money to participate in such a society as we still have, which is built upon money and the inequality of its distribution.

I and millions like me – pensioners, disabled, unemployed do not need clever phrases to disguise us from all but ourselves. We need some relief from persecution by the debt collector and the council bailiff. We need to be lifted out of poverty by a booming economy, and we need the reordering of social priorities, so that real attempts can be made to help us rather than to

penalise us for being poor. Every time a benefit claimant is prosecuted for non-payment of the social prosecution has taken place. Poverty was made criminal by Thatcherism. Those of us who live with it might begin to regain a little of our lost respect for politicians if they would launch a moral and social crusade against it. A small but important start could be made by instructing local government to take its thieving hands from the pockets of

the poorest. If Mr Blair would like to know how to proceed from there, there are very many of us, currently voiceless, who could advise him very much more effectively than the civil servants and worthy foundations on which he is likely to rely. ROBERT JÓNES

Newport, Isle of Wight

- Best

Deals

Sir: I agree with Peter Mandelson that to bring the socially excluded into the mainstream of society is the greatest challenge we face.
The National Council for

Voluntary Youth Services has long argued for greater co-operation between government departments. The youth organisations in our membership, which range from the Boys' Brigade to the YWCA and the Woodcraft Folk, have experience in adopting a co-operative approach locally. Youth work at its best works within the community together with a variety of groups and agencies and provides marginalised young people with opportunities to gain confidence and self-respect. The 500,000 volunteers who deliver the majority of services to young people in England also provide the positive role models that disaffected young people need and quite often do not find within families where no one works and where desperation has led

It will be important to listen to those who are socially excluded and to organisations that have experience of working with them. A first step will be to abandon the term "underclass",

Not bragging, but

not too old for sex

Sir: Thank you, Anna Raeburu, for

have, and enjoy, sex ("Just don't say the S-word", 14 August).

Education Authority thinks otherwise. They have just published a report, Health in England 1996, in which most of the statistics only cover people up

to the age of 74, which is bad enough.

But the sections on sex and drugs stop

at 54 years. How do they think we

spend our retirement? The HEA

should further its own education by

talking to us old 'uns, who probably

are just as sexually active, but spend

less time bragging about it.

ANNE PECK

London N7

pointing out that older people do

Unfortunately the Health

which suggests that "the growing number of fellow citizens that lack the means, materially or otherwise, to participate in the economic, social, cultural and political life in Britain today" are not really part of our society. The Government can only succeed in its ambitious aims if it sends out the clear message that the fight against social exclusion is the

responsibility of everyone. Those of us working in the voluntary youth sector look forward to working with the Social Exclusion

SUSANNE RAUPRICH Chief Executive

National Council for Voluntary Youth

Sir: Tony Blair can do much better than simply launching another autumn, by following his Irish counterpart and instigating a public debate around the creation of a fully thought-through national antipoverty strategy. In so doing, he would also honour a commitment made at the 1995 UN World Social Summit in Copenhagen - but not upheld - by the previous government to develop a national poverty eradication plan.

The Irish National Anti Poverty Strategy, launched earlier this year, following 18 months of consultation. addresses the underlying causes of poverty and social exclusion. Crucially, it also sets a measurable and time-bound target for reducing poverty, and recognises the importance of keeping those affected by poverty and the voluntary and community organisations which represent them involved throughout

The UK government cannot hope to make serious inroads into "social exclusion" unless it is prepared to establish structures to include those most directly affected by poverty and social exclusion within the policymaking process. New Labour has not been backward in welcoming the captains of industry into the machinery of government, but has yet to demonstrate a commitment to seek out the opinions of those at the other end of the social scale. Church Action on Poverty and the other 150odd members of the UK Coalition Against Poverty are therefore looking for some concrete steps towards achieving this, and not just another Downing Street policy announcement this autumn. NIALL COOPER National Coordinator Church Action on Poverty Manchester

Sir: Tony Blair should be more positive - why not call it the Social Inclusion Unit? **LENSALEM** London W5

Sir: There is a simple explanation for

the diverging views of your readers

During the summer season, large numbers of French students obtain

jobs as waiters in restaurants, with

the intention of cheating customers

while amusing themselves by being as rude as possible. Although second to

out of as much money as possible,

none in my admiration for French

literature, art and cooking, I have

experienced blatant insolence and

cheating from those young people.

ANDRÉW BLUHM

Thames Ditton

Surrey

on France as a tourist country.

The rudeness and courtesy of France

#### Pupils trained to jump through A-level hoops

Sir: The English A-level and Scottish Higher results this year show yet further improvements in the pass rates. Teachers claim that this is because students are better prepared, while the employers say they see no improvement in the capabilities of prospective employees. Many years of experience in

teaching A-level and Higher Grade subjects lead me to believe that both statements are justified. Students are better prepared and they are no better educated than they were 20 years ago.
Today both teachers and students

focus their efforts on finding out what sort of hoops examiners prepare for them, so that they will know how to jump through them. They gear themselves to answering the specific type of question set. Ten years ago some of my students attempted the A-

level mathematics papers I sat in 1968: they failed them abysmally but they all went on to get top grades in their own exams - where the style of question asked was different though the syllabus was identical.

This process is most clearly visible in the preparation for entry to Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

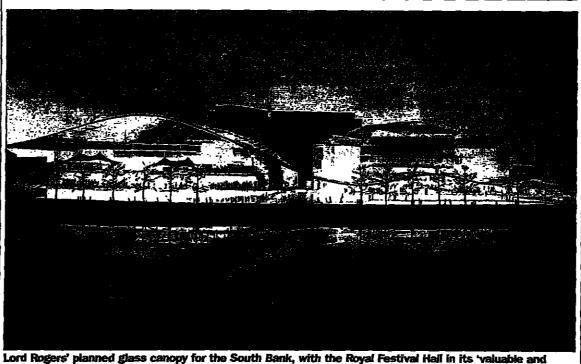
Independent schools and some state

schools employ many teacher hours preparing students to jump through Oxbridge hoops. "Success" rates at such schools are notably higher than elsewhere; they know how to work the system. This reflects a high degree of training. It does not necessarily indicate that the student is either better educated or better prepared for university.
FRANCIS ROBERTS

Sir: I noted your front page photograph (15 August) of young men celebrating A-level passes with some amusement, having read Mrs Cooper's letter (12 August) calling for such photographs.

However, you say concern is growing about the decline in young men's educational achievement. I' would have thought that one of the reasons was obvious - so many of the main sporting fixtures occur at the crucial revision period just before exams, or during the exams themselves.

And next year we have the World Cup to look forward to as well. We make exam preparation as difficult as we can for boys. JANE GIBBS Harpenden, Hertfordshire



Photograph: Earnonn O'Mahonny/Studioworks

#### South Bank: centre of a new arts quarter for London

Sir: Robert Maxwell (letter, 13 August) is wrong. Our proposals for the South Bank aim to return the Royal Festival Hall to its former glory in an appropriate and permanently improved setting. It will be the centrepiece of an active open-to-all and diverse arts quarter that will attract three times as many people.

It is also the view shared by Sir Leslie Martin, the architect who so successfully designed the Royal Festival Hall in 1951. Following the international competition for the masterplan in September 1994 a detailed presentation was made to Sir Leslie, after which he gave our scheme his warmest support.

To quote from his letter to Nicholas Snowman, our chief executive: "The Richard Rogers scheme has made it possible to create this ... splendid

Sir: I agree entirely with Jose Segal ("Vive la France" – letter, 14

Normandy since 1980 and find the

French very friendly and helpful.

neighbours, no drunken hooligans,

no cars with music one can hear 200

I would advise critics of the French

Angust). We have owned a house in

There is no graffiti, no noisy

to go further than the Calais

hypermarket and the Champs

yards away.

Elysées in Paris.

Bexhill on Sea,

East Sussex

GÓRDON NEWMAN

new centre for the arts ... to ensure that the Royal Festival Hall, already a Grade I listed building, will in the future have a valuable and appropriate place in that important development. Sir BRIAN CORBY

Chairman, South Bank Board

Sir: Robert Maxwell's authoritative analysis of the South Bank development scheme may come in time to stop the Arts Council authorising expenditure of lottery funds on a project which is not justified on artistic grounds.

Since it was first constructed, the Royal Festival Hall has had acoustic problems which are insuperable. There is no way, short of a major remodelling, in which changes would allow the five London orchestras to give of their best. They cannot hear each other; they cannot produce singing tone which allows the music to "float"; the sound can never be dense,

and therefore always lacks thrill. Certain frequencies are absorbed by the air when they travel more than fifteen metres; we cannot build on our own sound unless we are surrounded by hard surfaces. The hall

is too wide for top-quality sound. There is no case to spend many millions on a building, when London will still be without a hall which allows its fine orchestras to perform as well as they can in Vienna, Boston or Amsterdam. DENIS VAUGHAN Denis Vaughan Acoustical London WC2

doctors keep "records on the forms provided", to "keep suitable records". The result is that GPs

keeping excellent records may be

protection against arbitrary and

found technically in breach of their

conditions of service, and have little

#### paper, formed by independent journalists which Andrew Marr

With every smell, I smell food. With every sight, I see food, I can almost hear food. I want to spade the whole lot through my mouth at Mach 2. Basta! - The Duchess of York, from her holiday diary, published in 'The Spectator'

QUOTE UNQUOTE

I believe in two men, Elvis and Jesus Christ - Varna Marie, on the 20th anniversary of the King's death in Memphis this week lt's a very strong network, no doubt about it. But it's an open, meritocratic clique. The reason that we all get on, to be arrogant about it, is that we're all very clever - Derek Draper, former aide to Peter Mandelson, on the young MPs in the New Labour network A lot of them are knocked down on roads in places like Ontario MoD spokesman on the source of bearskins used to make Buzby helmets for the Foot Guard regiment

We will not be a footnote - we'll be a footprint in the history of rock music - Noel Gallagher, lead singer of Oasis

If Oasis are bigger than God, what does that make us? Bigger than Buddha? Because we are a darn sight bigger than Oasis -Mel C, aka Sporty Spice

Martin McGuinness is the Godfather of the Godfathers of the IRA - Ken Maginnis, deputy leader, Ulster Unionist Party, I'm 23 years old and I didn't even know my own arse. Now I'd recognise it anywhere - Paula Howarth, 'Penthouse' model

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

#### Is this a record? - not according to the NHS

Sir: Paper records can easily be hidden or lost.

Many GPs, like myself, prefer to keep records as computer files, and all recognised GP clinical software (Surgery Manager, Meditel. EMIS for instance) has for many years retained an audit trail of all alterations to the record, allowing a claim that a record has been expunged to be investigated (and,

from the GP's point of view, defended). However, the Department of its feet over the simple change to

Health has for several years dragged the rules from a requirement that

expected these minimal changes to be introduced very soon; that was very long ago and among all the other left-over undone jobs in the NHS, the current government should find five minutes to alter that sentence.

potentially large fines.

A parliamentary select

committee reported that they

Dr ADRIAN MIDGLEY Chairman Exeter Division of the British Medical Association

# Corruption on an Olympian scale



The 1960 Olympic Games in Rome: right, lighting the flame; above, the main stadium Photographs: AP/Camera Press

Rome wants to host the Olympics in 2004, but, says Andrew Gumbel, such events always turn into orgies of civic embezzlement and inefficiency. It has been that way since Pope Boniface VII introduced Holy Years in 1300

tinctly touchy about their bid to host the Olympic Games in 2004. When one newspaper had the temerity a few months ago to start questioning the wisdom of the enterprise in a city drowning in traffic and smog, where infra-structure stinks, the phones are primitive, public transport unspeakable, hotel accommodation miserable and scarce, and where the only room left to build major sporting facilities is in grotty wasteland in the distant suburbs, it suddenly found itself about as popular as

a paedophile ring.
The mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli, refused to talk to reporters from the paper, the Corriere della Sera, while the senior editorialist and outspoken anti-Olympics agitator, Ernesto Galli della Loggia, was ridiculed in public as an "intellectual snob" and an embarrassment to his country. The authorities hurriedly commissioned opinion polls showing that 76 per cent of Romans were in favour of the games, and presented economic stud-

he Romans are dis-tinctly touchy about ies forecasting glorious profit margins and job opportunities if the Olympic bid came off. As the deadline approaches

for the International Olympic Committee to make its final decision - the contest between Rome, Athens, Stockholm, Cane Town and Buenos Aires will be decided on 5 September - the battle between the organisers of Rome's candidacy and those who oppose it is reaching extraordinary heights of bitterness. Not content to dwell on

Rome's shortcomings, Mr Galli della Loggia has decided to take a wholesale swipe at the Olympic movement, describing it as an "extraordinary moneymaking machine" and denouncing the IOC's president Juan Antonio Samaranch as an unrepentant ex-fascist because of his past as a government minister in Franco's Spain.

In reply, the president of Italy's national Olympic committee. Mario Pescante, has accused Mr Galli della Loggia of jeopardising Rome's candidacy with his ill-considered

This week, the crabby exchanges have spilled over nat-

ional borders to include Athens, which has just finished hosting the World Athletics Championships and poses the most serious threat to Rome's Olympic bid. The Italian president of the International Amatenr Athletics Federation. Primo Nebiolo, complained that only the intervention of his organisation prevented the event turning into "a tragedy" and that the Greeks were incapable of putting together a major world sports fixture. He and the outspoken Greek Foreign Minister, Teodoros Pangalos, both accused each other

their own ends. The battle for the 2004 Olympics is thus turning into a passionate Mediterranean soap opera, with all sides denounce ing each other for their perfidy and ruthless egoism. Expressing idle opinions about the issue in Rome these days can be distinctly detrimental to one's social standing. Quiz the yes camp about the fine details of the various objections to their scheme and they will dismiss you as a loser all too easily duped by a few bitter Green

of mixing sport and politics for

Party politicians trying to settle petty scores within their ranks Mayor Rutelli also being a Green). Suggest to the so-called 'No Committee" that the Olympics might have some benefits, such as bringing muchneeded investment to a city starved of good government for most of the past 50 years, and they will deafen you with statistics that might be reliable but then again might just be

over-earnest propaganda.
At first sight, Rome seems like a magical choice of setting for the Olympics. It has the romance of the ancient ruins. beautiful Baroque churches and meandering cobble-stoned alleyways. It has sunshine, fine parks, Italian stylishness and unforgettable food. It can even boast a successful Olympics, held in 1960. That probably explains why, for much of this year, the city has been the firm favourite among professional Olympics watchers.

But to anyone who lives in Rome, the bid sounds like complete madness. The city is no longer the gentle, provincial capital of 1960, but rather an uncontrollable mess of roads, cars, poorly constructed housing and civic chaos. Mayor Rutelli has been trying to get to grips with the legacy of official corruption and rampant building speculation since taking

over the city government in 1993, but he has barely begun the gargantuan task. What's more, ever since Pope Boniface VII introduced

Holy Years in 1300, Rome has proved itself incapable of organising a major international event without turning the whole thing into an orgy of embezzlement, inefficiency and exploitation of the tax-paying public. The 1990 World Cup, held throughout Italy, left Rome with three unusable train stations and caused a budget over-shoot so enormous (up to 300 per cent on some projects in the capital) that magistrates are still sorting out the mess.

ne of the men under investigation for the 1990 fiasco is Mr Pescante, head of Italy's national Olympic committee. Another is Franco Carraro, who was mayor of Rome at the time as well as chairman of the World Cup organising committee, and now finds himself in a key role as one of Italy's representatives

on the IOC. Mr Rutelli's entourage argues that times have changed and that the wanton extravagance of the past is no longer tolerable or even possible. But the No Committee sees plenty of potential problems, notably with a brand new rowing basin being planned for the Magliana area, on the way to the airport, at a cost of 50 billion lire. Not only will the new basin supplant the existing international rowing facility on Lake Piediluco 70 miles north of Rome, but the projected site also just happens to be around the corner from the Holiday Inn hotel, and the Holiday Inn

just happens to be owned by Raffaele Rannucci, president of the Rome Olympics organising committee. It is also unfortunate that Rome is lumbered with a phone system so backward that there is no chance of its hotel

rooms being computer-compatible until well after 2004. It currently has bed space for 120,000 visitors, a veritable dearth, especially in high tourist season, and will be hard pressed to get anywhere near the 620,000 beds quoted in the official Olympic literature.

There are other official statistics that appear to stretch truth to its very limits. Rome airport to the city centre in 23 minutes? With Michael Schumacher driving the taxi and a couple of outriders clearing the way, maybe. Around the city ring-road, from the pro-jected Olympic village in the south to the projected main stadium in the north, in no

more than half an hour? Only

ment to ensure that "no public resources will ever be used for the organisation of any erhaps the most sympa-thetic reasoning behind Mr Rutelli's change of

if the city is deserted, which it

certainly won't be if the

The Rome bid envisages

spending budget of around 3.5

trillion lire (some £1.5 billion),

all of it from the public purse

at a time when the government

is desperately trying to rein in its budget deficit to qualify for

the European single currency.

The bid envisages seven new

sports stadiums, five in Rome

itself and two in Tivoti 20 miles

away, and a brand new Olympic

According to IOC rules, all these facilities have to be

adaptable to other uses once

the Games are over. The offi-

cial literature talks of convert-

ing the village into student

accommodation, even though

two out of Rome's three uni-

versities have not been con-

sulted about the project, and

are unlikely to be interested

since the vast bulk of their

intake are native Romans who

spend their student years living

are supposed to turn into con-

ference centres and concert

halls. The No Committee reck-

ons they will have to stage 14,000 shows every year just to

break even - a wonderfui idea

if it ever happened, but unlikely

in a city with the cultural life of

a provincial backwater.

The stadiums, meanwhile,

with their families.

village with 15,000 beds.

Olympics come to town.

heart is the desire to attract money to Rome at any cost. The city is so underdeveloped and decrepit, the argument goes, that without junkets like the millennial Jubilee (a vast infrastructure is envisioned) and the Olympics, it will never enter the 20th century, much less the 21st OK, so a lot of the money will be squandered and lost, but that is just a risk the city has to take.

One of the mysteries of the Rome bid is the enthusiastic participation of Mayor Rutelli, an environmentalist with a track record of opposing such large-scale enterprises. In 1992, as a simple member of partiament, he energetically opposed Milan's bid for the 2000 Games on the grounds that it would be "a distortion of planning and investment priorities" for the city, and because public money should not be spent so that private companies can profit from it. He even asked the govern-

Cristiano Brughitta, secre-tary of the No Committee and author of a pamphlet outlining his organisation's main arguments, listened to this reasoning with bemusement. "That's an incredibly cynical way of thinking," he said. 'And besides, only an eighth of the bid money would go to longterm projects. The Italian government would do much better spending the money differently, or even just leaving it in the bank and earning interest."

The argument may yet turn out to be academic. Athens has been making very strong running in the Olympic stakes and, Primo Nebiolo notwithstanding, is deemed to have done a creditable job with the world athletics. Italy's credibility, meanwhile, has been worn down by the University Games, scheduled for 19-31 August in Sicily. Not one of the new building projects promised for the Games has been finished. Seven regional councillors have lost their jobs over the fiasco, and one of them is currently in jail facing corruption charges.

Can Rome still win the nom-

ination? If it does, it will be largely thanks to the smiling ce and competent manner of Mr Rutelli, not to mention the heritage of several ancient Roman emperors, Bernini, Caravaggio and Michelangelo. If it does not, the organising committee will no doubt blame Mr Galli della Loggia and the other spoilers, but its failure may well do the long-suffering Eternal City a big favour.





ext week I'm going to show you how cool I am. So you have a whole seven days to go out and gazump me. Blind me with fashion. Sideswipe me with a new day. me with a new restaurant (as if!). Show me that you are so on the cutting edge you have to wear iron underpants.

Think you can beat me, eh? OK, I betcha a monkey that it cannot be done. For starters, do you know which is the hottest new cuisine and where can you find it?

MoMo, you say? Moroccan, you imply? Pish! The latest dining experience is New Indian Cuisine. The best place to find it is at Chor Bizarre, 16 Albemarie Street, London.

Now, I haven't been a huge fan of Indian food ever since I had to throw four attempts at making homemade dahl down the loo. (Women remember humiliations like that.) This food is tasty, deeply flavoured with well balanced spices. I'm told it is low-fat. It had better be. I needed a fork-wallah to finish the trough-sized portions.

Be warned, though. Go to Chor Bizarre wearing good shoes and not one of those micro-minis (unless you're trying to snag a new man). The tables are glass-topped. Secondly, make sure your credit card isn't maxed. The bill? More like a car payment. It was worth it. I've got to feed my instrument somehow.

and honest Moroccan food goes highprofile. That's OK, I guess, if you're going to get hammered and not really taste anything but a sour stomach afterwards. As an ex-wife who used to cook, I now want to eat at restaurants which serve food I cannot make better or cheaper at home. To emulate the cooking at MoMo, kidnap a Moroccan chappie and give him a wooden spoon and an oil drum. Hey, we could make

Weird things lurk in innocent places. If you don't believe me, look at a box of Kellogg's Honey Nut Loops.

I just discovered that Honey Nut Loops, a popular breakfast munch packed with sugar and shaped like donut seeds, has been offering a pathetic injured animal" in every box. By injured creatures and tasty breakfast I don't mean bacon and eggs. You see, in with these Loop-things, there is an oh-so-cute, friendly faced plastic doggie or horsie which purports to teach you how to care for animals.

The lesson begins by dropping the lit-tle blighter into ice water. This will make For those not ready for the new an "injury" appear on the animal. "To wave of Indian cookery, there is the make the injury disappear, all you need current fad of Moroccan. This cuisine to do is rub it better!" says the box. Rub

isn't new or forcibly trendy, not like that horrific idea of "fusion" cookery, which tried to weld East and West cuisine together.

At MoMo – furnished like the inside of I Dream of Jeannie's bottle – cheap on the brink of hypothermia and on the brink of hypothermia and any of the brink of hypothermia and any of the brink of hypothermia and any of the second of the sickos who are cutting up horses around the country?

The poor thing spends several ways the six of the sickos who are cutting up horses around the country?

The point of mangled dogs at breakfast of the sickos who are cutting up horses around the country?

The point of mangled dogs at breakfast, I assume, must be much the same as the brink of hypothermia and any of the brink of hypothermia and any of the brink of hypothermia and drowning, the puppy or pony now sports a very nasty red mark on its knee, bum or shoulder. While rubbing this bloodsoaked area, the perky look of total trust never leaves the beast's face.

I don't know if I'd want my kids (Biff, Cummerbund and Whiffy) to get the idea that rubbing makes things better. Rubbing eyes is right out. Mosquito bites too. As for rubbing other things, this is what public school is for.

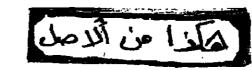
Kellogg's should leave baby animals

with arterial spray to the professionals. The end result? These boxes of Loops Tooth Decay and Breakfast Cereal have helped Kellogg's - assisted by the BBC's Animal Hospital - raise £125,000 for the RSPCA. This is cool. But squeamish Americanski that I am, I don't want to be reading the newspaper, chomping through Loops and discovering, too late, a bleeding bound languishing on my

Kellogg's motto, "If you don't see Kellogg's on the box ... it isn't Kellogg's isn't just Kellogg's in the box, is there? There are injured pets teetering on the brink of septicaemia. Is this the Nineties version of a nutritious breakfast? What's after brekkie, then? Burning down Battersea Dogs Home? Who knows?

with kids, the tamagotchi toy is born, grows - and dies if you don't look after properly. Criticised that they teach children about death at too early an age, tamagotchis now have to have other machines to baby-sit them. Kids cry when they die. And they won't accept a new one in its place, not like when you kill the kids' goldfish. Nobody hugs

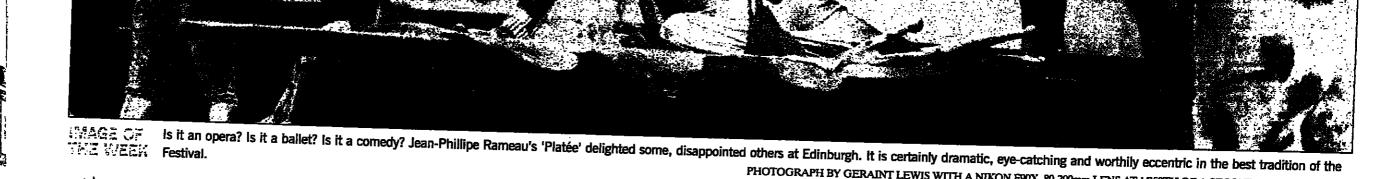
But are bleeding injuries on plastic toys any less traumatic? What happens if I don't rub them? Does their angry mother come in the next box I buy? OK, we'll forgive Kellogg's this time. (I once visited their HQ in Battle Creek, Michigan and they had the audacity to ask my mother to wear a paper hat. It was fun to see her get steamed up about ruining her hair.) The next time Kellogg's and the BBC set out to teach kids something, the lessons shouldn't be à la Sam Pekinpah. Otherwise, I could see breakfast conversations degenerating into Kellogg's on the box ... it isn't Kellogg's something like this: "Hey, Billy, would in the box," is a touch deceptive. There your pancakes?" Well, at least they're eating and talking. These sorts of things bring parents and children together. Isn't that why people make families in the first place? Now, could you pass me





THE FOLLOWING COURS

-:\_· -



# the of gweekend

Up Against It, an unfinished screenplay by Sixties' playwright Joe Onon, fur right, has been adapted for Radio 3 by John Fletcher. It was iv written for The Beatles and is now to star Blur's Damon Albarn, right. Here is an extract.

THE MUNICIPAL PARK -

Furtive sounds in the dark. Four men, including Christopher Low and the Mayor, on the footpath beside the Municipal Boating

Mayor: Pee. Low: Why do you want us to 1st Old Soldier: Do it, son. Low: But why? Mayor: Just pee in the

Suppressed laughter from other

Municipal Boating Pond.

Low: Why? 1st Old Soldier: Because we tell you to. 2nd Old Soldier: Just for fun. Mayor: For me, I'm an old soldier.

Low: All right. Just here? 2nd Old Soldier: Right! 1st Old Soldier: Just there!

Sound of pee hitting water.

Suppressed guffaws. 2nd Soldier: Bingo. 1st Soldier: Bombs away. Mayor: C'mon, let's go.

Ist Soldier: Out of it.

### WORDS OF THE WEEK

Low: But ... but ... His pee continues to hit the water as a single simple violin string line version of the opening bars of "Yellow Submarine" -"In the town where I was born"

**NARRATOR** Old, quite plummy/theatrical, Michael Macloimoir/Dylan Thomas without the Welsh, but not as OTT as Donald Sinden.

The Great City lies asleep. What a panorama spreads out beneath us. (Solo string enters again with soft, gentle version of "Penny Lane".) Streets, office towers, church towers, row upon row of mouldering redbrick Victorian terraces crowding down toward the river, the great, thriving docks. Here and there a milkman, a drunk, the occasional thief. But almost everywhere, beneath the stars (Music switches to two or three upthrusting notes of "I Am The Walrus" - McTurk's music), people sleep.

SMALL BEDROOM Rowena enters. Rowena (Thrusting, selfconfident, upper-middle class,

25): Ian McTurk – get your clothes off! McTurk: But I haven't got any Rowena: Sublime serendipity - neither do I. Quick - on the

springs eternal

McTurk: You can't do this. Bursting into innocent young mens' bedrooms on erection bent.

Rowena: I'm the most modern woman in the world. You don't like it when I straddle you and wave my magnificent mammaries in your face? Ian McTurk, stop beating around the bush and get stuck in.

A yelp from McTurk as she forces the issue.

Narrator: Now, however, like a giant box of kippers strewn across the eastern sky, dawn starts to fill the city with detail and perspective.

Again return of simple, quiet string version of "Penny Lane" (or possibly "Eleanor Rigby"). Smoke drifts from chimneys. Ships are coming into port, trains leave for other great cities, buses bring the workers to their factories and shops. Amid all the bustle, we focus in on one street, a church at the end of it, beside the church a large house standing in an unweeded garden, overgrown laurels and rhododendrons all

about. A cat crosses the tiles. ("Let it Be" music starts on fiddle, slow, means.) We pan down to a little window at the side of the house looking into the hall. Up to us stares the face of a young, earnest girl.

HALLWAY. Patricia: Oh Ian McTurk, I love you, I love you. (She turns to face McTurk, Low. Ian McTurk, Christopher Low, Father Brodie will see you

now. He's been wrestling with his conscience all day. McTurk: Who won? Patricia: A girl like me can't put a question like that to a priest. Ask him yourselves.



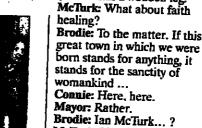
FATHER BRODIE'S STUDY. Father Brodie sits at his large desk. Beside him are arranged sitting, Connie Boon and The Mayor, Terrence O'Scallion. Before them are ranged,

Brodie: I am Father Brodie, priest of this parish Connie: I am Police Superintendent Connie Boon Mayor: And I am Terrence town. I hold fanatical views on

All three: We are here to judge

seated. McTurk: Thanks. Low: Cheers.

has a broken leg. McTurk: Haven't you sent for



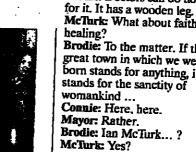
(Going) Come with me, please.

standing, McTurk and Low.

O'Scallion, Lord Mayor of this drugs, promiscuity, and bubble

Brodie: Defendants may be

Brodie: Not on that chair - it a doctor?



Rowena Torrence, the most advanced woman in the world, was seen entering your room in an advanced state of nudity. What is your excuse? McTurk: She'd come to borrow a cup of sugar. Connie: The gel's on a diet. McTurk: I refused to give in to her demands.

Brodie: At four am this

morning my niece, Miss

Mayor: Was she provocative? McTurk: Nobody is provocative at four o'clock in the morning. Brodie: That isn't true. I saw

PHOTOGRAPH BY GERAINT LEWIS WITH A NIKON F90X, 80-200mm LENS AT 1/250TH OF A SECOND, 12, ON FUJI FILM

Brodie: Doctors can do nothing

the incident with my own eyes. (To Connie) Do you confirm that, Police Superintendent? Connie: Indeed I do, father. I handed you the binoculars with my own hands. Mayor: And you left the blinds up as well, McTurk. The last indulgence of a sensualist. We were forced to sit there

watching your sordid and often

'Up Against It' is on Radio 3 on Sunday

dangerously athletic proceedings.

**Bob Guccione talks** to Janie Lawrence 3 Sun, sea, sand and Shostakovich **Travel & outdoors** 



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It's true—with Hertz the car only costs £13 for the weekend. LE SWAP MAGIQUE PROM-



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(Pith Disneyland Paris Theme Park

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### Dwarf on ice in lateral lift horror

Chris Maslanka explores the lures and flaws of lateral thinking puzzles

t the height of an otherwise intoxicated guest – let's dub him Justin Thyme – stumbles into me and regales me with the question: "Can a man living in Oxford be buried in Cambridge?" And then, without waiting for my reply, answers himself: "Course he can't; if he's living, there's no need to bury him." And before I can open my mouth to quibble with which convinces me he will return just in time for the end of this article.

I hate lateral puzzles. Don't get me wrong, i don't mean all lateral puzzles, just the clever-clever ones - the smartass ones. You know the sort of thing: "What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?" or, more laterally, try this one:

Puzzie One: Every morning, a man living in a skyscraper takes the lift down to go to work. Every evening he walks back up the stairs. Why?

Hint: Such puzzles tend to involve blocks of ice, one-armed ex-cannibals, dwarfs and people drowning in their own water beds. Here's another:

Puzzle Two: The suicide was hanging dead at the end of a rope in an empty room. The mysterious thing was that although his feet were two metres off the ground, there were no objects in the room for him to have stood on. The only door into the room had been locked from the inside. There was water on the floor. How did it happen?

Answers: The chap in the lift is a frameworks. That is dwarf and can't reach the button for why puzzles are the floor he lives on. The suicide had stood on a block of ice, tied the rope around his neck, then jumped off. The ice subsequently melted.

Quibbles: If it's that much trouble, the dwarf would surely get a ground floor flat - or at least ensure that there . are sometimes some vertically unchallenged people around to press the lift button for him. What sort of society do these puzzle-setters live in?

And how did that suicide smuggle so much ice up to his room. Quite apart from the question of how he got it under his arm and whether it tickled, a block of ice that size weighs more than a car. Perhaps he drove it up the stairs. Why had he bothered with ice anyway, when a chair wouldn't have melted and made such a mess? Was it so that he could change his mind if he got cold feet?

Let's get one thing straight at the how did this happen? outset: lateral puzzles are nothing new. Ancient texts are riddled with Puzzle Four. A them. There is the question that Sam- man son set the Philistines - "Out of the strong shall come forth sweet" - and the answer which Delilah treacherously passed over to them ~ "a dead lion in which wild bees had nested".

Then there is the riddle of the Sphinx, which stands up well even today: "What creature moves on all fours in the morning, on two feet at noon and on three toward the setting of the sun?"

pleasant party a somewhat living near a nuclear plant, but more

enigmatically, a human being.

What is new is not lateral puzzles
but the label "lateral", a term coined

Answers: The parrot was deaf. The exploratory type of thinking from vertical thinking. There have always been two sorts of thinking. Logicians called them deductive and inductive; psychologists called them convergent this he sets off on a random walk, and divergent. De Bono, in a deft exercise of new labels for old, renamed them "vertical and lateral

> In deductive, vertical or convergent thinking you apply the rules of logic to the data and deduce conclusions. This is a purely mechanical procedure, in the sense that a machine could do it: nothing new is developed in the process. In a sense the conclusions are implied by the data, they are just not in the most user-friendly form.

In divergent, inductive or lateral thinking, by contrast, we invent, we create, we busk, we end up with more than we started with: the parts are greater than the whole. An apple falls on our head and we dream up the theory of universal gravitation.

In spite of what the trendy relabelling might suggest, all good puzzles are in fact lateral. A good puzzle requires you to explore and discover for yourself a mode of solution; to invent and manipulate conceptual such good exercises in learning. They facilitate problemsolving by encouraging mental flexibility. In short, it is precisely the laterality that distinguishes a good puzzle from a mere

exercise in logic or rote learning. But just because all good puzzles are lateral doesn't mean that all lateral puzzles are good. Here's another couple. Judge for yourself whether they are good or bad:

Puzzle Three: A woman was assured by a salesman that the parrot she was buying would repeat any word it heard. A week later, the parrot still hadn't uttered a single word. Given that the salesman had spoken the truth about

the parrot's abilities, adds



position with a quick win

against Stuart Conquest.

his favourite Grünfeld

Finding himself facing

Defence, Pein chose a line

that brings White's queen

into the game early in order to persuade Black to

cede occupation of the

Black's 10...Na5 and

11...c5 (instead of Ne5 and

c6) is a highly questionable

plan which left the big

white pawn centre

unchallenged. White

increased his advantage

after 18.hxg6 Black was

lost. If he plays 18...fxg6,

neatly with 21.d6. After

Ne7+. At the end, after

22...Rfe8, almost any

21 ... exd6. White wins with

22.Nd5 followed by f6 and

combination of Nd5, dxe7,

f6 and Qh7+ polishes off

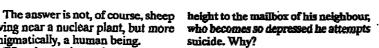
matters. Conquest was

then Bg4 and Be6+ is too

White finished the attack

with 15.e5! and 17.h5 and

centre.



by Edward de Bono to distinguish the suicidal neighbour was a basketball player whose mailbox difficulties convince him he is shrinking and that he will not be able to do dunk shots any

> Quibbles: or maybe the parrot's owner was dumb, or the parrot spent all its time listening to instrumental music on its per-

Smart-ass puzzles don't teach you anything apart from pedantry. You feel no satisfying sugar-rush of recognition when you hit on the know. But you solution. If anything you feel cheated. When that happens it's because the setter isn't interested in the puzzle per se.

He or she is inter-

ested in getting one Say "Pretty Polly"? over you. They take You must be full advantage of ambiguity joking! and using misleading language. For example:

Q: Why can't you photograph a man with a wooden leg in Winnipeg? A: Because you take photographs with cameras. (groan)

Because right and wrong don't

come into it, many rehashes of old puzzles are endlessly recycled and replagiarised complete with wrong Q: How far can you go into a

A: Only half way: after that

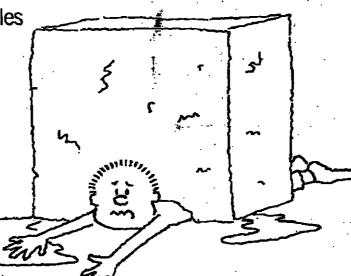
you're coming out again. Not so, as the illustration verifies. But hush, here comes Justin swaying from side to side, clearly still having difficulty thinking vertically. Now's my chance to set the record straight; to fight fire with fire, to outquibble the quibblers, to outsmart-ass the smart-

Justin: If your peacock lays an egg in your neighbour's garden, is it your property or your neighbour's?

your neighbours? Me: I expect so.

Justin: No, but which? Me: Mine.

Justin (triumphantly): No. peacocks don't lay eggs! Me: (slightly more tri-



Justin: Never mind, have a go at this one. A man turns his light out and leaves his house. As a result 60 souls perish. Explain.

Me: Let's see. He's a huge exstrongman who compensates for overeating by carrying his friends around on his shoulders at drunken parties. He turns the light out because he is shy and needs to go to the bathroom sooner than his friends can dismount. In the process he overbalances, toppling all his hangers-on off the balcony into the bay below. Sad really.

Justin (reading from his book): Nope. The answer is that he lives in a lighthouse.

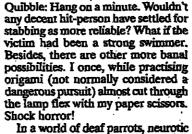
Me: But you said he lives in a house, lighthouse is a building, not a house. Besides, what's wrong with my answer?

Justin: It's not the answer. And that's just the point: the authors of such puzzles claim these exercises can liberate your thought processes and make you more creative. So why are they so rigid about their solutions? Isn't a more considered answer to "Can a man living in Oxford be buried in Cambridge?" simply, "Yes, eventually."?

Time for another one: Puzzle Five: The victim was lying dead on a bed, and on the floor beside the bed was a pair of scissors. The scis-Me: The garden? sors were instrumental in the ucain,
Justin: No, the egg. Is it yours or
yet there is no trace of blood. There were no cuts or bruises. How could she have been murdered with the pair of

scissors?

Answer: The killer had used the scissors to cut open the bed - it was a waterbed and the victim drowned.



basket-ballers and suicides on ice, who can arbitrate between sensible answers and crazy ones? They are unreal, disconnected and almost schizophrenic. Such clever-clever problems can exist only by ignoring vast chunks of the real world, such as how we use language, or the laws of physics. Admittedly real-life problem-solving starts out being creatively wild, but always at the end it has to be checked against reality.

But Justin the immovable object is determined to resist the irresistable force of my logic and have the final

Justin: I have to cross this bridge over a precipice with three heavy balls. The bridge will only carry my weight plus one of the balls. Me: Tough one that.

Justin (triumphantly): That's what you think; you see if I juggle them I'll only be holden. Then ball in my hand at any one time. That way I can cross in safety.

To my horror, I see he has run a plank out of the window across to the next skyscraper and has climbed out on to the window ledge with three huge balls. We are 50 floors up.

Me: But Justin, the average force you exert will be your weight plus three balls; throwing a ball up only serves to increase the reaction on the plank. As it isn't a steady force, the force on the plank will at times actually be greater than you and the

three balls. That's physics. Justin: No, no, you don't understand, this isn't a physics puzzle, it's a lateral puzzle ...

... and he steps out on to the plank. The plank, knowing only physics, starts to oscillate violently and snaps, precipitating him, rather vertically, into the void. He, like his lateral puzzle, has failed the reality check and is crushed by his own ice-cold logic.

> Illustrations by Kate Smiley

### Games people play Pandora Melly talks to a Grand National

winner about poohsticks and lost trousers.

Jimmy Frost, 38, National Hunt jockey, winning rider of the 1989 Grand National

There's a game I play with my children. We normally go for a ride on a donkey, down to one of the little bridges over the stream, where we tie the donkey on the hedge and play Pooh-sticks. You drop the sticks in the river on one side, and see whose comes under the bridge first. It's the easiest thing to play after you've gone up the road, trying to entertain everybody. I normally end up broke, because even at their age, they race me for money.

Gymkhanas; that's a good game, isn't it? We go at the weekends during the summer holidays. Again, I have to race about a lot. The kids enjoy it as they're all pretty competitive. There's potato races, a sack race and maybe a flag race. It's just a lot of fat dads trying to run like hell with little kids on ponies. You hope your kid doesn't fall off. I can tell you I'm a very bad loser.

There's a serious side to gymkhanas. Children learn to be good losers and winners, and it probably stands them in good stead if they want to take up equestrian riding later in life, so it's a game with a

I did gymkhanas when I was a kid. I remember a wheelbarrow race. That's when one partner starts on the horse and gallops round, and then you've got yourself a little mate somewhere, waiting to be wheelbarrowed. You have to jump off the horse, pick up your wheelbarrow by the ankles and run. I can remember doing that with a lad a bit younger than me called Andrew Wonnacott. I was pushing him along, and his trousers came off. He was very embarrassed to end up with no trousers, but I wouldn't put him down until I'd won.

The official rules of Pooh-sticks may be found in chapter six, 'In Which Pooh Invents a New Game and Eeyore Joins in', of 'The House at Pooh Corner' by AA Milne, available in paperback from Mammoth, £5.99. or in 'The World of Pooh' (Methuen, £12.99).

#### Things people do

Zanussi have been applying their science to discovering what men do in the kitchen. The results of their Zanussi Millennium Man survey have just been published, and reveal that the average adult male spends 41 minutes a day cooking, 18 minutes a day washing the dishes and 32 minutes a day doing the household washing. Despite this domestication, however, they still lead a more reckless life than women, being prepared to eat food that is, on average, 1.9 days past its sell-by date compared with an average 1.6-day tolerance expressed by women. Here are some other findings of interest:

8 per cent of men wash their clothes only after they have run out of anything clean to wear 9 per cent of men's fridge space in the West Midlands is occupied by beer

19 per cent of men admit that they discuss kitchen

appliances with friends at the pub 28 per cent of men know how to use all the features

on their dishwasher 38 per cent of men have used the washing machine to clean their training shoes

44 per cent of men say that women know most about

how kitchen appliances work 55 per cent of women say women know most about

how kitchen appliances work 60 per cent of women believe that women cook

better than men 61 per cent of men believe that women cook better

than men 61 per cent of women believe men will be spending

more time in the kitchen in five years' time 65 per cent of men believe men will be spending

\$

more time in the kitchen in five years' time 78 per cent of men say they know how to use all the features on their cooker (compared with only 74 per cent who know all the features on the hi-fi)

Survey based on a random sample of 902 over-16s

The games page is edited by William Hartston

#### Chess William Hartston

One of the less satisfactory features of the Swiss system - where the pairings of each round are drawn up to ensure, as far as possible, that each player meets an opponent on the same score as himself - lies in its great equalising influence. The Smith & Williamson British championship this year has been a good example.

As usual, the early rounds were spent in sorting out the stronger from the weaker players. But once the cream has risen to the top of the tournament table, its representatives have to meet each other, which leads to a large number of draws. And while the cream is churning in this manner, players from the homogenised middle of the table take their chance to win games against lesser mortals and climb back up to positions of contention.

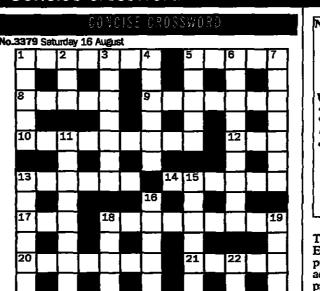
After eight rounds, Kosten, Miles, Adams, Emms, Ledger and Sadler were all within half a point of each other at the top and looking as though they could forget the rest of the field in the race for the title. Paired against each other, however, their games ended in three draws and suddenly the chasing pack

was back on their heels. One of those who took advantage of the slowmoving front-runners in that round was Malcolm Pein, who improved his

# No.3379 Saturday 16 August

evident not eager to see precisely which way his opponent was going to deliver the coup de grace.

White: Malcolm Pein **Black: Stuart Conquest** 1 d4 Nf6 12 Be3 Nd7 2 NB g6 13 f4 a6 3 c4 Bg7 14 h4 b5 4 Nc3 d5 15 e5 c4 5 Qb3 dxc4 16 Qe4 Qc8 6 Qxc4 0-0 17 h5 Nc5 7 e4 Nc6 18 Bxc5 Qxc5 8 Be2 Bg4 19 hxg6 hxg6 9 d5 Bxf3 20 f5 Qb6 10 exf3 Na5 21 d6 Nc6 11 Qd3 c5 22 Qh4 resigns Concise crossword



**ACROSS** More substantial (7) Ceremonies (5) Offer in excuse (5) Strange (7) Vanish (9)

12 Writing point (3) 14 Summer month (6) ings (9) 20 Flower (7)

13 Cover in bandages (6) 17 Cereal crop (3) 18 Conduct formal proceed-21 Recess (5) 23 Teacher (5) 24 Aridity (7)

Mechanised cycle (5) Playing card (3) Thief (6) Shaving implement (5) Spider (9) Effervescent drink (7) Declaration (9) Domestic worker (7) 15 Weird (7) 16 Displease (6) 18 Smell (5)

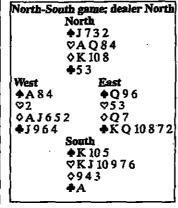
22 Stick used in billiards (3)

19 Swords (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Highs, 4 Ostlers (Isosceles), 8 Slogans, 9 Alloy, 10 Extol, 11 Sh poo, 13 Else, 15 Sconty, 17 Abbess, 20 Node, 22 Pickaxe, 24 Aural, 26 Sharp Echelon, 26 Somalia, 29 Gorge, DOWN: 1 Hastens, 2 Groat, 3 Scarlet, 4 Ohs 5 Tiara, 6 Eclipse, 7 Say-so, 12 Head, 14 Lynx, 16 Acclaim, 18 Bear Ing, 19 Siler 21 Oedema, 22 Posts, 23 Appal, 25 Ruler.

#### **Bridge** Alan Hiron



This deal from the Generali European Championships proved difficult to judge accurately for both sides. After a pass by North, East (with regard to the vulnerability) often opened 3. Now 3. by South seemed natural enough, when 5 by West put North under a lot of pressure. The winning action would be to double (and

card support for partner seemed a deterrent to this. As you can see, 5♥ offered no play, even though it was likely to escape being doubled, but, if he had been allowed to play there. would South have made 4♥? Presumably, West leads a club and declarer wins, draws trumps and ruffs dummy's remaining club in hand. Then he leads a low

diamond, which West must duck. and the king wins. The next diamond lead draws the queen from East, and West must overtake and cash his jack. Now, with the other suits eliminated, West must lead a spade or concede a ruff and discard, after which a winning spade guess by declarer will see him home.

collect 300 points) but the four-

West, of course, must not lead the A. but the A4 does the trick as long as East contributes his nine. Then, having to play the remaining ◆K.5 facing ◆J.7.3 himself, declarer must lose two tricks in the suit.

#### **Perplexity**

Why might UNCLEAN TRIMS I ERR SLIMY NOSE add up to

HE GAVE BY BLIND MAN? A prize of the Chambers 21st Dictionary will be awarded to the sender of the first correct

explanation we open on 28

August.

Answers should be sent to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. 26 July answer: WATSON = 207819 (the only odd-number solution to the problem).

Winner: Peter Claudet (North Walsham, Norfolk)

2 August answers: PSYCHOSIS (chop + sissy) PARANOIA (apian + oar) KLEPTOMANIA (tampon +

Winner: Mrs HR McGrattan (Trowbridge)

#### **Backgammon** Chris Bray



The week-long extravaganza that is the World Championships has been completed, and this year's champion is the very good Swedish player, Jerry Grandell. The event is held at Loew's Hotel in Monte Carlo: this year the various tournaments attracted more than 400 entrants, 213 of whom competed in the main championship. Former world champions Mike Svobodny and Phillip Marmostein made it to the quarter-finals and semi-finals respectively. In the final, Grandell was pitted against the French

player Frédéric Banjout. The final was to 25 points and when Grandell raced off to a 13-3 lead it looked all over, but then Banjout fought back to trail by only 20-17. Grandell won the next game, to lead 21-17. In the next game Banjout - as White - doubled far too early, and not long afterwards the above position was reached with Banjout having a 52 to play.

The more one plays backgammon the more one learns that leaving anchors prematurely can be costly. When trailing in the race, as Banjout is here, it is important to keep that last bastion of defence in Black's board, thus making it as difficult as possible for Black to bring home his men. Here White trails in the race by 140-158 and has no earthly reason to run from the 5-point.

The best play is 16/11, 16/14 which clears an unnecessary point at very little risk. However, Banjout made the beginner's play of 20/13 and his punishment was swift and sure. Grandell rolled his very best number, double-3, playing 13/10, 8/5(2)\*, 6/3 and very soon afterwards he deservedly won a gammon and the match. This was his second major tournament victory this year, following the Giant Jackpot at the Turkish championships.

For the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damien Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst ... TURN TO PAGE





Janie Lawrence talks to BOB GUCCIONE

forest of hairs pushes its way through a blouson shirt which, in the manner of Tom Jones, is undone to the navel. Distracting at the best of times, this vision of hairiness seems all the more bizarre as one very earnest Bob Guccione leans forward to outline his views on God. God? Guccione? Yes, the founder of the sex mag Penthouse always intended to be a cleric. "I thought that I really wanted to be a priest but after I went to the seminary. I went through puberty in a resounding way," he explains in a distinctive gravelly voice that's pure Brooklyn. "I decided it was not for me."

From potential priest to promoter of pornography. I imagine that 67year-old Guccione might well, in that familiar "time is running out" tradi-tion, be cosying up to God once again. As the man who has been dubbed the "King of Porn" makes a surprising detour into things spiritual, the latest issue of Penthouse, depicting the cover girl in a pair of stilettoed rubber boots, lies on a nearby table. "No," he says, "now I am a non-believer. I think in time one becomes older, wiser and more circumspect. If there is a God, he must be terribly unjust or work in such mysterious ways as to be totally unfathomable. I cannot accept anything that is so unfathomable."

Bob Guccione came to England in the Fifties, intending to become a painter. Instead, he joined the staff of London American, a weekly news magazine. When he decided to launch Penthouse, his own magazine, in 1965. the first issue sold out in five days. Over 30 years later, he is a very wealthy man and lives in the largest private house in Manhattan, boasting marble floors and a Roman-style sunken pool. His dress sense is redolent of the more shady characters in Starsky and Hutch: cowboy boots, white jeans and a tonnage of chunky gold jewellery. A phalanx of bodyguards is never far away. Today, in the hotel lobby, several men built like tanks are on standby in case. I launch a surprise assassination attempt. It happened to that other very public face of porn, Larry Flynt, and they're taking no chances.

Although Guccione insists that Penthouse sales in the USA are still healthy. the UK version has not fared well. He has reclaimed the franchise and wants to put Penthouse back on track. "It badly needed resuscitation. It became very pornographic and really misogynistic and that was not what Penthouse was all about." The man who pioneered pubic shots is worried about misogyny? Might it not be more to the point to admit that it's been losing pots of money? "I meant resuscitate the image, more than its sales. But that goes with it."

You may be confused to hear this but Guccione doesn't like pornography. Absolutely not. In fact the very word aggravates him. It's all something to do with that fine line between erotica and pornography which he insists isn't really fine at all. "There's a great difference between erotica and pornography," he begins, casually, clearly used to churning out this line of defence. "In my opinion, pornog-raphy is a vulgarisation of the art of erotica. So if something is vulgar, it is no longer artistic. When it becomes artless, it becomes pornography. You

mammon Oris da



can photograph a woman completely nude and that can be a work of art lyrical, beautiful and mystical. As opposed to the very brassy, vulgar image of the girl fully dressed."

Among the changes in the new British Penthouse is that the dubiously titled "Pet of the Month" slot has been scrapped. "I am surprised to hear your criticism of that word when you're English," he says, frankly looking nothing like surprised. "When I started Penthouse, the term 'pet' was a

very affectionate word. If you got on a bus, the conductress came up to you and said, 'One and six, pet'. It was an endearing term and I used it for that purpose. Only when I went abroad did people say to me, 'Pet is really a domestic creature and you're treating women like animals."

But then, Guccione sees both the sexes in animalistic terms. He describes his own youthful prowess: "In the past, would seize almost any opportunity. Like any ordinary young male. The nature

of man is not to be monogamous. It is not the nature of any male anywhere in the animal kingdom. He's not intended to be. Nature wants you to go out and replicate yourself. As much as you can, as fast as you can. When you are no longer capable of fulfilling nature's prime directive, life is over."

Guccione's life has been spent fulfilling nature's prime directive in style. When he was 18, he married Lilyann Becker. Three years and one child later, he met British singer, Muriel Hudson. Another four children followed but the marriage floundered when he became involved in setting up Penthouse. "I think she felt threatened. She thought that if I worked with pretty girls, I would be taken away and she wouldn't stand for it." Plainly wife number two knew where she would stand in the mating game. "In the very

beginning, you know it was like having your own candy store. Wonderful opportunities presented themselves in a very erotically charged atmosphere. And I guess I took advantage of them. I never bothered to tell my wife. I was very good at sleeping behind her back which is something I did not ultimately respect myself for."

By the time he met his current wife, Kathy Keeton, when he was 35, he had



"sown plenty of wild oats". He recalls that what impressed him most about Keeton, the dancer who had just appeared in the film, The Spy who Came in from the Cold, was her choice of reading material. "I thought, What an incredible woman. She reads The Financial Times and books like African Genesis.' She had a real feeling for business." He asked her to come and work for him and proudly announces that she was the "first woman in the West-

ern world" to sell advertising space. However, he still had some "wild oats" to use up. "I said, 'Kathy, from time to time, I'm gonna wander and you're not. I know that's wrong, I know that it's chauvinistic but that's the way I feel.' " Breaking with tradition, he made a point of keeping her abreast of every such occasion. "I was very sincere and I always went back

and told her. I'd say, look I was in Barbados or Paris shooting a girl and the second or third day I made love to her. I always admitted to her whatever I did. I never wanted her to hear it from anyone else. I think she understood it was a real demonstration of respect for her - true love. It's very easy for a man not to have to say anything. To keep it to himself or tell his buddies about it. But I never had buddies. My

> Sounds like a Catholic man's need for absolution to me. "Guilty? I never felt guilty about it. Maybe if I had felt guilty, I wouldn't have said she would have preferred it if he'd simply kept his flies zipped up? "Kathy's very sophisticated. She realises that these things are going to happen." Naturally, though, what has been sauce for the goose would not have been appropriate for the gander. He is momentarily puzzled I even ask. "Kathy has never had any interest in going with

another man. I would not have accepted it. She has been completely faithful to me. Really that's one of the reasons I've been so much more monogamous with her than anyone else in the past." At his age, he can't have any oats left. Would he stray again? "There would have to be some very big reason. I'm really very happily married."

Both he and Keeton work for Penthouse. He is as involved with the US magazine now as he was 30 years ago. There are certain aspects of the magazine that I keep entirely to myself. All the girls are chosen by me and I choose the pictures. I design the layout each month and all the definitive detail. The things I do with the magazine I cannot allow anyone else to do because nobody would do it as well."

I wonder how he has been affected by political correctness. "It's absolutely

collapsing in the US. It was very much a thing of the moment, a fashion. Like all fashions, it goes in time." He categorically denies the often touted view of the link between violence towards women and pornographic pictures. "Censorship promotes violence." he counters. He goes on auto-pilot: "Peoole who are sexually satisfied don't go out and commit violent anti-social acts. It's those people that are prohibited from acting out their sexual fantasies that begin to lose the line

between reality and fantasy." Two years ago, Keeton was diagnosed as having breast cancer, "We were floored. She thought it was an a pain in her stomach. But she had it in her liver, her stomach and lymph nodes. She was given three, maybe six weeks at the outside." Against all the odds, he says that she is now in full remission. She refused chemotherapy and they are now both active in promoting the alternative therapy they believe is responsible. Referring to the pharmaceuticals industry, it's the one time he becomes genuinely heated. "It's the two billion dollar scam - they don't like the fact there is a genuine treatment for cancer which costs as little as three dollars a day." He's taken

up the issue in the American Penthouse.

Along with Keeton, three of the Porn Guccione progeny also work for Penthouse. He is no longer on speaking terms with his son from his second marriage, Bob Jnr. Allegedly they fell out in 1988 when Bob Jnr borrowed money to launch his own music magazine, Spin, and a year later daddy demanded it back. It must sting as it's the only question he blanks immediately. "Neither of us talk about it," he says dismissively.

Has he contemplated retiring and handing over the reins to a younger Guccione? "So long as I own the company, I have to keep doing what I do. There's still a few things I want to got other things off the ground thereafter, in all practical terms, I can retire." With plans for a casino in Atlantic City and his own TV network that could be some time yet.

After a break of 30 years, he's finally returned to painting. Now he usually paints at three in the morning after he's finished working on the magazine. He's already had several one-man exhibitions and says that if he does retire, he would spend all his time painting. "I don't feel now that I have to prove anything to myself or to anyone else. I feel pretty good about life." As the man himself might say: good on you, pet. Guccione (above), as he is today, a vision of hairiness and (left), in the early, Main photo:

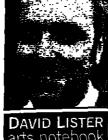
### Politics: it's no laughing matter

he apocryphal story of the actor on his deathbed has his friends asking him how it feels to die. "It's hard," he wheezed, "but comedy's harder." Political comedy, it seems, is harder still. I've spent a week ploughing through the stand-up comedy on the Edinburgh fringe, and there was barely a political joke in sight.

The sharp young comedian Boothby Graffoe had a go, deciding that Scottish voters getting rid of the Tories "was not devolution but evolution". But where were the anti-government jokes? Not a titter about Robin Cook's dalliance, though I recall that in 1992 you couldn't go into a bar at the festival without hearing the latest David Mellor joke.

"The Tories were simply funnier," says comedy impresario Bill Burdett-Coutts. Nica Burns, who runs the Perrier Comedy Awards, has an even more curious rationale: "Tony Blair is handsome, charming and clever. That's just not funny."

You can't make jokes about good-looking blokes. Is that really the new credo of comic correctness? Eighteen years of Conservative rule have evidently party-politicised and consequently neutralised the nation's comics.



THEATKE NO

Satire should be even-handed. The Sixties satirists certainly did not shut up shop when Harold Wilson took over from Alex Douglas-Home. Comedy admittedly plays a very small part in the democratic process but it does have a part to play. Yet 220 comedy acts in Edinburgh playing to thousands of students were unable to make a single joke about tuition fees. They should be drummed out of the comics' union.

One person said to be privately appalled at management shenanigans at the Royal Opera House is Sir John Tooley, who was general director a public. I hear he has signed a contract will no doubt become a feisty post-fem-



with Faber and Faber to publish his memoirs next year, getting in a year before his successor Jeremy Isaacs publishes his. Enid Blyton's Noddy is to star in a series

on American television for the first time. He will have an American accent. and Big Ears will become White Beard as America cannot have an animated character who is "aurally challenged". All of which is defended by Enid Blyton's daughter, though the old girl herself must be turning in her grave. And that's only the two main characters. Gollywog, I suspect, will be taking the decade ago. His views could soon be first train out of Toytown, Tessie Bear inist, and if having large ears is ruled out of order, heaven help the Wobbly Man.

Back in Edinburgh, one play chilled the heart, not so much for its content but for its history. The Suicide by Nikolai Erdman was a 1928 comedy satirising Soviet life through the eyes of an unemployed man. After 18 months of rehearsal it was banned at the dress rebearsal as a play that "calounnied Soviet reality".

Stalin himself wrote to the producers: "I do not have a very high opinion of The Suicide. My closest comrades consider it empty and even harmful. I am not against the theatre experimenting and showing its skill. Provided that the theatre achieves its aims... Comrades will judge who know about artistic matters. I am a dilettante

Some dilettante! The ban on the play led to it not being performed for 50 years. Erdman never wrote another play and is thought to have lived many years in poverty. The producer Meyerhold was eventually arrested, tortured and executed.



Serena Mackesy on Luddism; Robert Hanks on radio; Jasper Rees on TV... TURN TO PAGE

#### Daytona beachwear: T-shirt, baseball cap and black tie. Malcolm Hayes joins the LSO at the seaside

The voice behind me on Daytona Beach's North Atlantic Avenue had the genial massiveness of Paul Robeson's. So did the build of its possessor, who was clad in regulation beach outfit of floppy T-shirt and even floppier shorts, plus socks, trainers, and the obligatory reversed baseball cap. Since I was wearing a smartish suit in the 90F heat of a Florida evening, he'd rightly guessed that I wasn't heading for the beach myself. Yes, I said, I was going along to hear the London Symphony Orchestra playing one of its Florida International Festival concerts at the local Peabody Auditorium. This was given the authentic seal of approval: "Have a good evening.

I did. And that was very much the mood around me, both on the streets and at the top of the high-rises. Everyone I met during my four-day visit to Daytona seemed to like the fact that the festival itself was there and happening, even if they probably had no intention of going along to it.

Daytona Beach is known above all for two things. There's the beach itself: 23 continuous miles of pale sand, running with arrow-like straightness along the Atlantic coast from north to south. Sir Malcoim Campbell came here in the 1930s to break the land speed record in his Bluebird V. The car itself, beautifully restored, is on permanent display at Daytona's other famous landmark, the Speedway - one of the world's great motor-racing circuits, and something of a shrine to car enthusiasts generally and to Ferrari fanatics (I

plead guilty) in particular. Meanwhile, the LSO's regular presence at the biennial Florida Festival is a major component in Daytona Beach's determined campaign to be known for something else besides sun, sand and racing cars. Kent Nagano, the London orchestra's US-born associate principal guest conductor, filled in some of the background for me.

What has to be remembered is the sheer size of the landmass here. Outside the big conurbations, most of America consists of quite small towns with in California, and my parents used to drive for three and a half hours and back again to take me to hear the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. From somewhere like Daytona you have to go even further. Most people just aren't able to do that.

That's one reason why the LSO's presence here is a major event. Another is its involvement in the educational side of the festival. In the Seventies America changed its priorities about these things. Mine was about the last generation that grew up with regular exposure to art as part of education. Now, on the whole, that's just ... gone."



'Let's be honest, it's different from playing on a wet November evening at the Barbican,' admits one LSO member after yet another post-concert party

# n, sea... and symphonies

Sounds alarmingly like home, I suggested. "It's worse here. The festival is trying to do what it can to restore that exposure. It's a commitment that's not to be underestimated. And the fact that there's a regular link with European culture, through a European orchestra, says a lot about the community."

The ongoing love affair between Daytona and the LSO began in 1966 when the festival started up as the brainchild of Tippen Davidson, proprietor of the local News-Journal newspaper and toughly dedbeen invited back ever since. It has now played more concerts in Daytona than anywhere else outside London and, given the affection so warmly shown to it. has no intention of stopping. No nonsense about arriving at the airport and routinely piling into coaches, for instance. This year, as usual, the players were driven through the town in a 30-strong motorcade complete with motorcycle escort. "Let's be honest," a happy-looking LSO member admitted to me at yet another post-concert party laid on by their tire-lessly hospitable hosts. "It's different from playing on a wet November evening at the Barbican."

The climate and setting may be gorgeous, but the orchestra does a lot more than play volleyball on the beach. This year's schedule of seven concerts in 10 days, plus a substantial crop of chamber concerts and educational work, saw to that. An afternoon "mini concert" in a local church beside the Halifax River featured the exotically named Deutz Trio - aka Paul Edmund-Davies, Roy Carter and John Alley, the LSO's co-principal flute and oboe and principal piano. Delivering their choice of music (Quantz, Kohler, Chaminade, etc) with unperfunctory expertise, as they chatted between numbers, with Alley reminiscing about his erstwhile organ teacher's position at a London crematorium ("It's actually quite a wellpaid job. And there's always work"). Robert Bourton's talk before one of the LSO's evening concerts switched deftly between demonstrating the technical intricacies of his bassoon and telling stories, including the best Beecham one I've yet heard.

(Sorry, but it would take too long to tell here.)
For the Youth Concert, the 2,500-seat Peabody Auditorium was packed. On the platform was the LSO and, playing alongside the section principals,

young instrumentalists picked from schools and colleges all over Florida. The LSO's "music animateur" Richard McNicol, changing gear fluently between compering and conducting, secured a neat performance of Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf (pantomime hisses for the LSO's unfazed trio of horns representing the Wolf; fervent applause for everyone else). His younger-than-average audience was having a fine day out, of course. Were they also listening? Judging from those immediately around me, I think they really were.

tropovich, to conduct the festival's two closing concerts. ("That man never seems to need to sleep," says an LSO violinist in affectionate despair.) Just off a transatlantic flight that had been followed by two three-hour orchestra rehearsals on the trot, the 70-year-old Rostropovich really did look as fresh as a daisy while we talked about life, art and his choice of programmes. Of Tchaikovsky's and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphonies: "Maybe in London or Paris now I would not do these ones. But here, many people will be hearing them for the first time. They're a good place to start." Of Rodion

Shchedrin's *Stilthira:* "It was the first piece that could be officially dedicated to me by a Russian composer after I left Russia in 1974. So it is very important to me." Of his lessquick-than-preferred passage through American immigration at Atlanta airport: "They are organised. A little too much sometimes. But maybe this is one reason why they are a great nation. Also, when the man at immigration speaks to you, somehow you know that he has a big country behind him!"

Choice: rural rides ......8

In the event, the idea of one big country speaking musically to another in Stikhira didn't quite come off. "What was that all about?" someone asked me in the interval. I only had an idea because, in his engaging and excellent pre-concert talk, Shchedrin himself had explained that Stikhira is an ancient form of Russian religious chant. The work's development of this opening idea, interacting with assorted bell-sounds (real or paraphrased), was concentrated and impressive. So why no programme note, nor any spoken introduction from anyone? No wonder the audience was left floundering.

But this was an untypical slipup in a festival otherwise studded with things to remember. There was Jean-Yves Thibaudet's scintillating playing of Saint-Saens's Fifth Piano Concerto in Nagano's second concert. In Rostropovich's first, there was 14-year-old Helen Huang's likeable, no-nonsense way with Beethoven's First Piano Concerto - how her young talent will develop is anyone's guess, but it's certainly there - and Roy Carter's lovely balance of incisiveness and elegance in Mozart's Oboe Concerto.

There was also Ros-

tropovich's mighty interpreta-tion of Shostakovich's Fifth, to which the LSO responded with playing of lustrous power and, in the slow movement, pin-dropping quietness and beauty - all much enhanced by the Peabody Auditorium's full and clear acoustic, which allowed the Symphony's final peroration to thunder with an immensity that thrilled. The young lady sitting next to me - tall, statuesque, and with boundless warmth towards everything and everyone around her - interrupted her passionate applause to stretch out before her a brown arm of seemingly endless Vow! That was use arm. "(I did.) "It's got goosepimples along it." Russia had indeed spoken to America, through an English orchestra that's currently on exceptional form. I'm glad I was there to hear it happen.

Sir Georg Solti conducts the LSO in Verdi's Requiem at the Proms on Friday 12 Sept, 7.30pm, Royal Albert Hall (booking: 0171-589 8212) and live on Radio 3. Sir Colin Davis conducts Beethoven's Violin Concerto (soloist: Midori) and Walton's First Symphony at the opening of the LSO's 1997/98 Barbican season on 23,24 Sept (booking: 0171-638 8891)

### It's like dancing on Lire

#### Siobhan Dolan discovers why so many get a kick out of copying Riverdance

an image readily associated with Irish dancing, but so huge was the turn-out at the South Bank's recent Down by the Riverdance day that by the end of the stepdance class for beginners, most participants had, in trying to master the devilishly tricky footwork, knocked heads with the novice next to them. Still, unlike most other dance lessons, the pain did not extend to an elbow in the face: this was Irish dancing in its most formal sense, so any arm movement was strictly verboten.

The event, part of the SBC's Blitz festival, which runs until Sunday, featured workshops and performances celebrating both the established and more progressive strands of Irish dancing. An estifrom overseas - including visitors from Slovakia, France and Spain - as well, of

course, as a substantial Irish contingent. Yet, until recently, the organisers of Blitz would probably not even have considered putting on such a day, let alone imagined that it could prove such a crowd-puller. Irish dance used to have a serious image problem. Expressionless, humourless, sexless - it scored perfect sixes on every count.

But that was before Riverdance, Amid all the nil points and cheesy beats of the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest, some-thing much more significant launched itself before a global audience of 300 million. When the lord of the dance himself, Michael Flatley, exploded on to the stage, arms flailing, it was as momentous

ancing cheek to cheek is not mated 1,000 enthusiasts attended, many in its own way as William Webb Ellis's

decision to pick up the ball and run. Three years later, the beat goes on, and despite the widely reported rift between Flatley and his co-revivalists, both traditionalists and modernisers in the industry continue to bask in Riverdance's glow.

Moira Clerkin, organiser of Down By the Riverdance and co-founder of Clerkinworks, has no doubt about Riverdance's impact on public perceptions. "It has had great influence in terms of profile," she says. "People now know how skilful our dancing is and don't think of it as some fringe, folk, weird, backward thing. The Irish dancing world hadn't been prepared to step out and look at itself until, it has to be said, Michael Flatley and Moya Doherty saw its theatrical potential and realised it could go on a world stage."

For Linda Fryday, who runs dance schools in Dartford and south-east London, Riverdance has opened up new doors for her pupils. "Before, Irish dancing came to a standstill when the girls got to about 17 - they either gave it up or became teachers. Now there's such a great demand from follow-ups to Riverdance that they can work

towards auditions. It's wonderful." John Brooks is also a teacher, as well as a competition judge. His son Ciaran is currently touring with Riverdance. Brooks reports a surge of interest in Irish dancing from people of all ages. "I get hun-dreds of phone calls, in particular want-ing to know where there are adult classes," he says. "Certainly, every teacher I know is getting a lot more enquiries. As well as encouraging a lot of young peo-ple to start. Riverdance has also brought people back in who drifted away when they were 12 and 13."

Brooks confirms the knock-on effect Riverdance has had in improving standards in the traditional competitions. More participants means more rigorous stan-dards and higher quality. "These days, dancers competing at open level have to be very fit," Brooks says. "They have to put more in - give up their football, for example - if they want to take it seriously."

While acknowledging Riverdance's role in making Irish dancing more palatable, Clerkin emphasises that its success owed a lot to numerous other professionals who had been strengthening and developing the tradition for some time. "I have to say that others of us saw the potential years ago but unfortunately didn't have the necessary money or the glitz," Clerkin says. "We've got such a firm basis with the discipline and what can be done with it that it cries out for elements of it to be played about with in a theatrical way. Irish dancing has always had people prepared to do something different with it - to move the upper half of the body, for example, and to experiment with other types of dance. Some might say that stops us being different but I think we can be confident enough of its beauty and skill not to worry that it will get diluted."



Fancy some footwork? Get jigging the 'Riverdance' way

As the South Bank's workshop proved. it's not just those of Irish extraction who have been persuaded to take it up. June Armstrong, who lives in London but is from Barbados, was an instant convert in 1994. "I was mesmerised by Riverdance." rhythms. The hardest thing for me is the discipline, keeping my hands by my side. We, as West Indians, like to move them and stamp our feet." Her whole family, which also includes a large Asian element, is similarly enthusiastic. "At Christmas, we all put Riverdance on, stand in front of the

television and practise our moves. Clerkin believes that the fact that Irish dancing is so rigidly different to other dance forms is integral to its popularity. "You've got dancers who are able to leap through the air and do amazingly dextrous things with their feet with not so much as a flicker of a muscle in the upper half of form which everyone wants to come and look at."

The synchronised tapping of the feet on a vast scale has also captured audiences' imaginations. "Irish dancing adapts itself very well to tricky Balkan rhythms,"-Clerkin explains. "5/8 and 7/8, for example. It gets your head in a spin, as we're used to 4/4 and 6/8, but this, combined with the intricate footwork, is what makes the experience so exciting."

Perhaps the most significant change

wrought by Flatley, Butler and company was a much-needed injection of sex appeal. Clerkin agrees: "When you look at the traditional costumes, masses of 4242) today and tomorrow

green velvet and embroidery, they're absolutely appalling to move in - it's like dancing under a pair of curtains," she says. "Suddenly, we've got shoulderless, backless, low-cut mini-dresses and long black legs. Of course it's sexy." She also The music really gets to you and I love the points to the Mr Darcy effect; in her eyes, mean and moody also draws audiences in. "There is something very seductive about dancers with totally expressionless faces, while all this power is going through their feet."

Irish dancing may be at an all-time high but Clerkin is convinced that it will continue to get stronger through embracing elements from other cultures. "Look at how Irish music has developed with other world music," she says. "That's not to say that there's no room for tradition there's room for both. But, ironically, by experimenting with new things, it makes audiences all the more interested in the body - the result is a unique dance going back and seeing where it started and

what it's all about." But forget the sell-out world tours of Riverdance, the spoofs on Comic Relief and Guinness's decision to use Irish dancing in its £4m advertising campaign for Harp. What more evidence do you need than the fact that, for the first time in Blitz's 12-year history, Peggy Spencer's ballroom dancing day has been toppled from its position as the No 1 crowd-puller. Thanks to Down by the Riverdance, even Peggy's been tangoed.

Blitz is at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960



### Seeing is disbelieving

THEATRE Blinded by Love Edinburgh International Conference Centre

Blinded by Love is like a berserk collaboration between Pedro Almodovar and Luigi Pirandello. Performed with rapacious zest by the Catalan company. La Cubana, the show sends the conventions of theatre and of film on a sublimely idiotic yet thought-provoking collision course. Seeing is disbelieving here as these different worlds literally interpenetrate.

Before you get to the auditorium, you're shepherded by bossy joke-officials through an exhibition which suggests that Catalan culture was dreamt up by some maniacally Catholic Julian Clary. Things are no less camp inside, as you settle down to watch a movie teeming with dayglo-coloured human caricatures and full of naff Sixties-style song and dance about a 17-yearold orphan girl on a trip to Barcelona.

Her blonde coiffure would win her medals at Cruft's but the features underneath are strangely wizened. That this cutesy dollybird is being played by Estrellita, a 50-year-old former child star (splendidly played, in turn, by only thing that is exposed when the actress huffily brings the filming to a halt over a messy script change involving pigeon shit. To the idea that this is a film about around with notions of theatrical

the troubled making of a movie, there's a further twist here in the brilliantly handled pretence that the movie is still being made as we watch and that we, the theatre audience, can help or hinder its completion.

In the row in front of me, a woman resembling some hotblooded Hispanic Mrs Merton started loudly accusing her male neighbour of touching her up. Wherever the aggressive, torchwielding ushers re-seated her, the complaint was the same. Already faced with the terrible problem of how to placate Estrellita (newly discovered to be pregnant), the flamboyantly gay director and the seedy old producer peer out in giant close-up besecching the disruptive audience not to make

neering mother is driven to bursting through the screen, bustling up the aisle and sweeping "Mrs Merton" back up into the film where, of course, she screnely persists in handhagging supposed molesters. This launches the show's anarchic and technically breathtaking traffic between the worlds of two Anna Barrachina), is not the and three dimensions, and of "then" and "now". The joins are seamless as the characters blithely disregard all forms of border control and - playing

Finally, the director's domi-

"presence" and movie "magic" alternate between celluloid and cellular existence.

The film at one point even catches fire and the performers are all ejected through the screen into the theatre like variations on the metaphysically lost characters of Pirandello - in search of a movie rather than an author.

Dazzlingly directed and conceived by Jordi Milan, the show is too high-spirited and daft to dwell on its philosophical implicutions, though its sufficiently humourless PhD student could have a field day with it.

Warned of its unnervingly par-ticipatory nature, I'd thought of looking up the Catalan for "Forgive me, I'm severely disabled". But I don't think that would have stopped them, especially as both the live and the film strands climax on a kitschily Catholic miracle curing Estrellita's blindness and on a swaying pop song procession to the Virgin that Fellini himself might have found

a tad over the top.

If you fancy clambering into ecclesiastical drag as a candlewaving penitent in a costume that marries Ronald Firbank and the Ku-Klux-Klan, this is just the show for you. To 23 Aug (exc Mon 18), 8pm. Booking: 0131-473 2000



Captivating canvas: John Singer Sargent's 'Lady Agnew of Lochnaw', 1892

### Lady fortune

#### ART The Portrait of a Lady National Gallery of Scotland

Ortraiture is well served by the National Galleries best work, the Agnew portrait is most exciting at its of Scotland at this year's Edinburgh Festival. There is the triumphant Raeburn exhibition staged by the Portrait Gallery at the Royal Scottish Academy, "The Face of Denmark" at the Portrait Gallery itself and, at the National Gallery on the Mound, an exhibition built around a single picture - John Singer Sargent's portrait of Gertrude, Lady Agnew of Lochnaw.

The Portrait of a Lady", as they've called it with a nod to Sargent's friend and fellow ex-patriate American Henry James, is a biographical exhibition twice over. It presents, in miniature, the story of Sargent's career and of the subject whose celebrated beauty catapulted them both into the public eye when her portrait was first

exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1893. Sargent's name was already known by then. His smoul-Paris society nearly 10 years earlier, and his masterly marriage of Impressionism and Pre-Raphaelitism, Carnation Lily Lily Rose, had been bought for the British nation as early as 1887. It was, however, Lady Agnew that established his credentials as the painter of Edwardian society and brought queues of London's most fashionable to his studio door.

It is a remarkable picture: faultlessly beautiful and perfectly painted. She sits, slightly slumped in a bergère, one arm trailing down its side. Her white gown and purple sash, the Chinese hanging behind her head and the loosely brushed flowers that decorate the chair are all painted with matchless virtuosity. Like most of Sargent's

edges, the freer and bolder the better, but, unusually for him, this picture has an added quality that marks it apart. There is, in her look, a hint of psychological tension, as if she may actually be thinking about something other than being painted. It may have helped that she was ill at the time; a little distracted perhaps, but the effect is a far more serious picture than those that surround it.

There are 23 other works by Sargent in the exhibition and a number by his contemporaries, but there is nothing in any of them that comes close to the brilliance of Lady Agnew. Remarkable as it is, I'm not sure that it justifies an exhibition to itself: for all of the gilded glamour that fills these canvases, the experience of the show doesn't add up to very much. The paintings, like dering, snooty portrait of Madame Gautrea had shocked some of the people they depict, seem too much like the

> Late in his career, having turned from portraiture to landscape, fed up with what he perceived as the vacuity of his former profession, Sargent said that "a portrait is a picture in which there is something wrong with the mouth". Step next door to the Raeburn exhibition at the RSA and you'll realise that, in other hands, and at other times, the art of portraiture offers other, more satisfying alternatives.

> The Portrait of a Lady: Sargent and Lady Agnew to 19 October (0131-624 6200)

> > Richard Ingleby

### Guitars from Mars

POP Matthew Sweet LA2, London

y rights, the power-pop mer-chant Matthew Sweet should chant Matthew Since his need no introduction. Since his breakthrough 1991 album Girlfriend, the nectarous-voiced Nebraskan has been spilling out beautifully balanced melodies punctured with dynamic guitars that form an unmistakable sound (though the spirit of Chilton, Lennon, Parsons and Brian Wilson are handy reference points for the uninitiated).

Back in the States, his albums turn gold and, wherever he plays, there is a "Full House" sign and a smattering of stars on the guest-list. Although there were members of Silver Sun, 3 Colours Red and others of that breed in the crowd on Wednesday night, it was an occasion for the ordinary fan. Most of them hadn't seen him since 1993; one of the reasons Sweet hasn't had much European success is that he has a real problem about getting on a plane. Thankfully, his label stuck him on the QE2 to come to promote his latest album – Blue Sky on Mars.

Given the four-year lapse, it was little surprise that the LA2 was a soldout sweatbox. Right from the start, when they hurled themselves into "Come to California", it was clear that Sweet and his band of long-standing had come to please. Including frequent introductions that put him up for the title of most unassuming and unpretentious man in rock, he managed to squeeze in 21 songs in just under 90 minutes. The faithful shouted out their favourite songs at every opportunity and while he would have had to have played another two hours to satisfy all demands, the set list gave a good reflection of every-thing since Girlfriend. In so doing, it revealed lyrics that document love's ups and downs, and flit between Loserville and hedonism.

No sooner had the feedback died down from the last song ("Sick of Myself" - the closest he's come to a hit single) than the sound of a thousand pairs of hands clapping had guaranteed an encore. "Missing Time" came first and then the lights faded and Sweet was alone at the piano for a crisp version of the sublimely moving "I Almost Forgot". That would have been a perfect end but, well, he doesn't come here often, and like four eager-to-please schoolboys, the band bounced back to stretch the usually stringent curfew limits of the LA2 with four upbeat numbers.

It all ended, amid threats of the plug being pulled, with a swift canter through "Teenage Kicks". That Undertones song, as we're so often told, is one of the perfect pop moments, but the fact is that Sweet also has a stack of his own. Given that this country has been indulging itself in the much paler Britpop thing over the past few years, it's one big puzzle as to why this Matthew Sweet guy still often needs an introduction.

Tim Perry

#### Rich Hall: Too hot for Bedouins to handle



he first thing I noticed about Edinburgh this year, as I stepped out of the train station into the streets, was how subdued it seemed. Gone were the skanky, effervescent unistudents, hawking their leaflets. Gone were the stiltmen, guitar-bashers, mudmen, troglodyte dance troupes and other peripheral Fringe street detritus. Gone was the Scott Memorial, the Castle, Arthur's Seat. I looked down at the banks of the lazy Tyne, and realised I'd gotten off at

Newcastle. I cajoled a lift from a donkey wagon and driver and we took the old coal route from Newcastle to Edinburgh via Jedburgh. The Cheviot Hills are gorgeous this time of year,

covered in brilliant displays of poverty, listlessness and bad TV reception. Jedburgh is near where the river Tweed meets up with the Corduroy and Velour rivers and life is hard there because the rivers clash so badly.

We pulled into Nazareth feeling about half-past dead. I said to someone. "Mister, can you find me a place to lay my head?" but in truth I was just retreading the lyrics to an old song by The Band, so we pushed on for Edinburgh.

We reached it late that night and I don't really need to describe the streets to you (see paragraph one).

Edinburgh is a city full of mirth. Edinburgh is a city full of mayhem. Edinburgh is a city full of every comedian on earth. They throw up on you at

Edinburgh is a city that sings - of ceilidhs and bagpipes and beer. Edinburgh lets England pull its strings - but it won't by this time next year!

At present Edinburgh is in a trenchant frame of mind. The three-week festival is its superficial "party" face, but underneath something seismic is taking place. Edinburgh has more control over the governing of its festival than of its own affairs. This is changing. Scotland will soon

be its own landlord, if you will. Which only makes sense.

Personally, I look at the whole deal this way. Scotland and England are like two sides of a semi-detached house (with Wales in the basement, screaming "More heat!"). They are neighbours. They have to get on. Both secretly think the other is having a better time. England has more parties but they usually end at 11pm. Scotland's parties are fewer but go on all night. Also the liquor is better. There. That explains it, and feel free to call me anytime you need an incredibly complex intra-national problem reduced to a cartoon explanation.

My show is called Louisiana Hayride and is performed in a room so hot Bedouins are walking out midway through. come on-stage every night and, within five minutes, I'm sweating like a one-legged man in an arse-kicking contest. Why people pay to see a civilised man perspire to the point of losing his ocular fluid is beyond me but, God bless 'em, they do. It's why I love Edinburgh. It keeps you humble.

Rich Hall's 'Louisiana Hayride' is at the Gilded Balloon (venue 38), 233 Cowgate, 10 30 Aug (exc 24). Booking: 0131-226 2151

GERAINT LEWIS



THE OPERA

Platée

Mark Morris directs and choreographs

with comic zest Rameau's parodic baroque opera Platée. The Royal Opera

House's first production since being made

homeless was at the Edinburgh Festival

Theatre. Jean-Paul Fouchécourt sings the

high-tenor title role as a frog in drag and

the singing chorus belch from a swampy orchestral pit, while Morris's own dance

company provide a pantomime energy in

couture by Isaac Mizrahi.

Raymond Monelle enthused: "A

marvellous piece... full of satire and pathos... it should touch the heart a bit, but it's hard to commiserate with a frog." "A

anything else on the operatic stage,"

spectacle which defies comparison with

marvelled the FT. The Times applauded

Fouchécourt "who manages to preserve the dignity of Alastair Sim and the chaste

flirtatiousness of Jack Lemmon on similar assignments", while The Guardian

Beatrix Potter, only far sexier and more dangerous, and with infinitely better music."

London EC2 (0171-638 8891) from

concluded: "It's a bit like The Tales of





THE ALBUM

our hands on their latest magnum

the Beatles, who were bigger than

listen to a third album of chugging

chords and Mancunian whine.

opus, Be Here Now. The real question

lesus, but if anyone can be bothered to

'Much the same as before, only louder

and denser," cowers Andy Gill, who

sneaks in a sly attack: "It sounds like

is not whether Oasis are bigger than



### THE BALLET

Tharp! Oasis's Be Here Now Next week the brothers Gallagher Celebrated choreographer Twyla Tharp brings together 11 dancers hand-picked expect us to be quivering in deferential anticipation outside HMV as we wait to rush in, sweating and screaming, to lay

from the US and Europe in three new pieces which come under the self proclamatory banner of Tharp!. The choice of music is eclectic, ranging from early American hymns to Philip Glass's sadly mundane re-working of David Bowie's Heroes. Only 66 comes up to the usual Tharp scratch, but the programme is athletically entertaining.

"The dancers are sensational," exclaimed Louise Levene, "but it is a pity that Tharp has yet to make her new dancers the works they really deserve". "Assembled in lazy haste," grumbled a disappointed Guardian, only appeased by the "pair of lovers who indulge in some hilanously tense, hormone-drenched sex". The Times was equally titiliated by dancers "Stahl and Robinson... so jazzy-cool and sexy-hot that suddenly the lovers' spat gets to the very heart of what Tharp is

Tharp! was at The Playhouse, Edinburgh. It's now finished, but there's more dance to see - try the Netherlands Dance Theatre III's Tears of Laughter, 28-30 Aug (0131-473 2000).

nothing quite so much as The Beatles crossed with Status Quo." The Telegraph was overwhelmed, wondering "just when the kitchen sink is going to make an appearance". The Mirror heralds "the most eagerly awaited album since the Beatles unleashed Sgt Pepper 30 years ago", but Terry Major-Ball disagrees in The Guardian: "a reminder of a late night on orange juice at Peter

Be Here Now is released on 21 August on Creation records.

Stringfellow's night club".

Sparkling pantomime opera for the child in us all.

22 September.



Superb dancing but flat. choreography made Tharp's Edinburgh run a mild disappointment.

all about".



Opinion is divided. Decide for yourself (by listening to your little





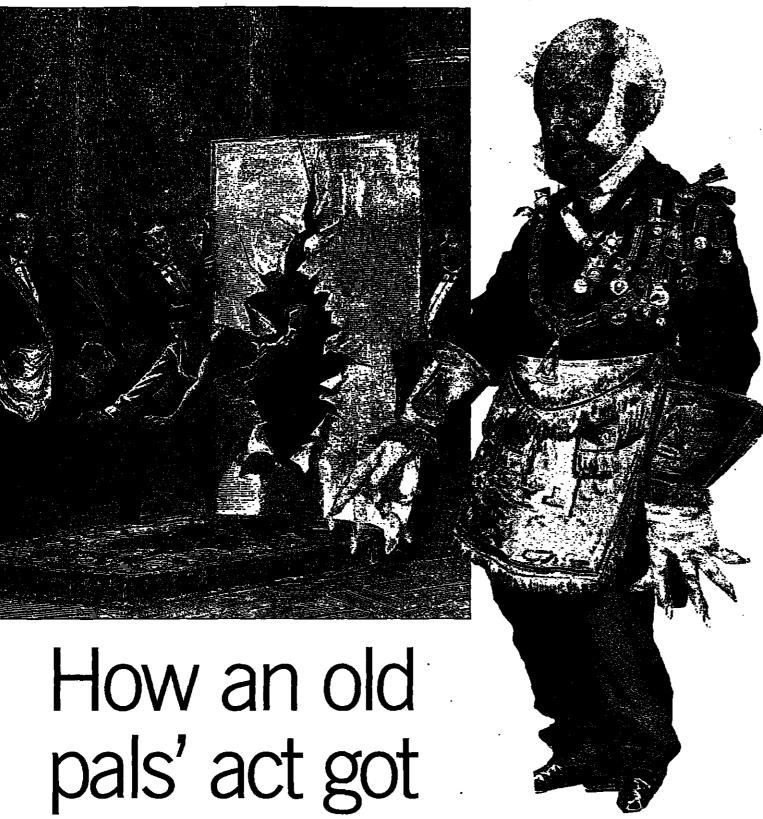


EXCELLENT 占 GOOD OK POOR DEADLY

on view

overview

Roy Porter squares up to the secretive creed that claims to link King Solomon's builder with plumbers and policemen today



pals' act got DIY religion

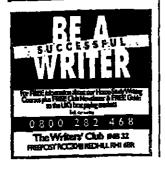
Jumping through hoops, clockwise from above left: a prospective candidate for freemasonry experiences an initiation ritual; Edward VII, just one of many royal masons this century; and one of the few female apprentices is given a helping hand into the brotherhood

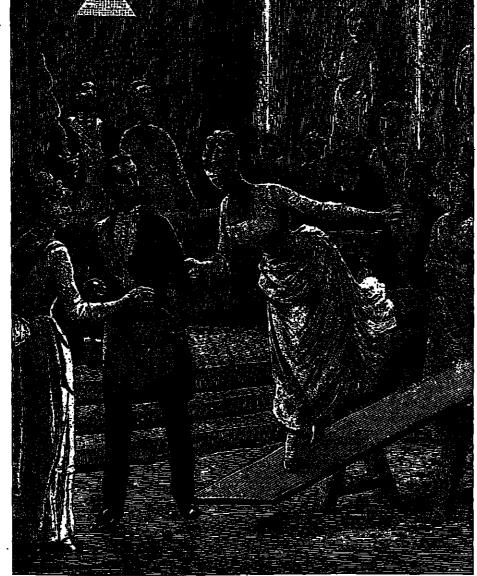
Who's Afraid of Freemasons? The phenomenon of masonry by Alexander Piatigorsky, Harvill Press, £25

lorget the catchy title: the subtitle gives a true guide to this book's agenda. This is not yet another exposé of middle-class middleaged males with their trouser legs rolled up, doing schoolboyish things at rowdy dinners. Nor is it an investigation into the secret cliques of Masons who, rumour has it, clinch insider business deals, pay off the police and receive favours from the bench thanks to a genteel version of the Mafia principle of looking after your own. Rather, this is a serious philosophical inquiry conducted by someone with all the credentials for such an investigation. A self-confessed non-Mason, Piatigorsky is a professor of comparative religion at the University of London, with books on Buddhism and mythology under his belt. His mission is to probe the much mocked but little explained "secrets" of the "craft". All those weird symbols - the compasses and aprons, the squares and gavels -all those rituals of initiation, all those hierarchies of office and uniforms (the brethren of the first, second and third degree): what do they mean?

To grasp what Freemasonry purports to stand for, it is essential, Piatigorsky maintains, to go back to its very roots. For it was then that its enduring rites and rules were established (set in stone, one might say). Freemasonry as we know it emerged around the dawn of the 18th century, a distant descendant of the congregations of practical stonemasons who had flourished since the Middle Ages.

"Speculative" masons - that those more genteel brethren who did not actually hew stones - were a mix of





nobles and tradesmen who formed lodges for fellowship. As part of the process historians now call "the invention of tradition", they forged for themselves a legendary ancestry which related how an élite of masons had banded together ever since King Solomon had ordained the building of the Temple in Old Testament times. Thereafter, masons had been involved with every great feat of royal or national construction, all the way up to Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren.

Why the symbolic attraction of building, rather than any other trade or livery company, for these gentlemen's clubs? It was partly because of the values associated (ideally, way of life, a new morality of at least) with the building right and wrong, a road to sal-

trade, Buildings were symbols of civilisation, strength, solidity, endurance; the builder's art was fair and square, the geometry which formed its foundations also underpinned the hidden harmony of the cosmos. Not least, Freemasons liked to depict the Deity Himself as the Great

Architect of the Universe. From the beginning, rules of conduct were drawn up for the lodges and rites of passage fixed with great precision. Crucial to these were certain mysterious names and terms, and esoteric symbols and gestures, purportedly going back to Hiram, Solomon's builder. This mumbo-jumbo was not intended to spell out a whole

vation, but rather was meant to cement the solidarity of the brotherhood.

It is because rituals have been so central, Piatigorsky argues, that, as movements go, Freemasonry has undergone less change and suffered fewer schisms over the last three centuries than almost any other sect or creed. The secret of Freemasonry lies in being a corpus of ceremonies designed not to save souls or change the world, but to uphold solidarity within.

What this means, Piatigorsky boldly claims, is something Masons themselves generally deny: Freemasonry is a religion - or, at least, a religious phenomenon. And so it was meant to be from the very start - a syncretist faith

which would be perfectly compatible with various Christian confessions, with Judaism or other faiths, something which would approximate to a "natural religion", open to all men. This ideal embodied the fervent desire of its codifiers to create a faith which would unite peoples in brotherhood rather than (as with traditional Christianity) slaughtering them in the name of the Church: hence the appeal of Freemasonry to Enlightenment figures such as Mozart.

Interpreting musty Masonic documents and interviewing prominent Masons, Piatigorsky affords rich insight into a body of practices which has continued to grow in appeal (it is said there are 700,000 Freemasons in Britain, 3.5 million in the USA) despite a general decline of religious faith and secularisation at large. Maybe this success stems from meeting a thirst for ritual which liberalising faiths such as Anglicanism no longer satisfy. That would also explain the abiding hostility of Roman Catholicism towards the craft.

Piatigorsky raises more questions than he answers. Why, one would like to know, given Freemasonry's sincere commitment to a "universalism" transcending creed, colour and nationality, has the movement been so bigoted in its exclusion of

That misogyny is particularly interesting in the light of a brief episode of Masonic history which Piatigorsky never addresses: the early lodges of the Netherlands, which did occasionally admit women. Then, can we really accept his view that Freemasonry has typically been "apolitical"? On his own admission, Continental Freemasonry in the 18th century was openly antagonistic to the old regime; more recently in Britain, lodges have sometimes looked like the Tory Party at supper.

Above all, one would have liked his judgement as to how much of the esoteric creed laid bare here is actually known to, let alone believed in by, your average plumber, publican or policeman Mason in Manchester or Milwaukee. But for making the secrets of the craft less sinister, if no less bizarre, Professor Piatigorsky deserves our handshake.

### Held hostage by the Vatican

Peter Stanford explores the Roman folly that shamed the Papacy

The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara by David Kertzer, Picador, £17.99\_

n one of the most eloquent inter-faith gestures of his pontificate, John Paul II became in 1986 the first pope ever to visit a synagogue. He joined Rome's Jewish community at their place of worship on the Lungotevere and apologised with heartfelt sincerity for Christianity's long history of anti-Semitism.

The gruesome details of the Church's almost

2,000 years of persecution of its spiritual older brothers and sisters are well known - from the medieval demonising of the Jews by the Inquisition, through successive expulsions and mas-sacres, down to the Vatican's shameful silence in the face of the Holocaust. The idea that Jews had committed deicide by killing Jesus was only finally refuted by Rome in 1965. Until then it had fuelled one of the most hateful vendettas in the history of humankind.

John Paul's gesture of reconciliation had a much more particular - if widely neglected - context, as David Kertzer now reveals. Just over a century earlier, Pope Pius IX had shown his utmost contempt for Rome's Jewish community when he refused their anguished pleas for the return of six-year-old Edgardo Mortara to his territory and the return of six-year-old Edgardo Mortara to his Jewish parents. Where John Paul sat with head bowed, listening to the synagogue choir singing a hymn chanted by Jews on their way to the Auschwitz gas chambers, another pope at the dawn of the modern period denied Jews any civil rights and played God over the future

Edgardo was seized in 1858 at dead of night from his loving parents by the Inquisition. The boy, it was said, had been secretly baptised by

a Catholic servant girl in the Mor-tara household when she feared for his life during an illness. According to the perverse logic of the time, that made him a Catholic - and no Catholic could be

brought up by Jewish parents.

After they had got over their initial shock, the Mortaras acted like many other victims of miscarriages of justice since. They kept believing someone in authority would realise that it was all a terrible mistake. While they patiently petitioned Pope Pius to overturn the Inquisition's decision, word of their ordeal spread first through Italy's Jewish com-munities, then to Jews in Europe and North America, and finally to national and world political leaders

Kertzer, an American social and turns of this cause célèbre. On one side was the most reactionary and fanatical of pones, stuck in a medieval time-warp. On the other. a new wave of hardened anti-clerics and opportunistic politicians such as Count Cavour, who exploited the fate of Edgardo in order to pre-cipitate Italian reunification.

Kertzer argues persuasively that Pius's handling of the whole melodrama provided Cavour with all the ammunition he needed to convince the French Emperor Napoleon III to move against the remaining papal territories. Pius, in short, demonstrated why his temporal powers were

Caught in the middle were the Mortara parents and their relatives, mentally and physically destroyed by separation from their son. Out of this human drama, Kertzer fashions an illuminating history of the decline of church

power and the rise of an Italian nation.

Taking the lives of "ordinary" people in extraordinary circumstances to shed new light on the past is a tricky undertaking. All too often the attempt ends up lost between narrative and analysis. Kertzer, however, has produced a triumph that deserves to stand alongside such classics as Natalie Davies's The Return of Martin Guerre and Aldous Huxley's The Devils of

The campaign to free Edgardo Mortara had mixed results. Papal power crumbled, as it would surely have done anyway. Italy was reunited. The links between Jews around the globe were immeasurably strengthened. For the first time they co-ordinated a campaign against

an oppressor and persuaded public opinion and politicians to back them.

But for the Mortaras there was no happy ending. On the fall of Rome the teenage Edgardo fled to Austria rather than face his parents. He was soon afterwards ordained a priest and spent the rest of his life as a travelling evangelist - a strange vaudeville turn, reworking his own story to convince others to convert. He never saw his father again, and only late in life re-established contact with his mother and siblings. He died in 1940 in Belgium, just as the Nazis began rounding up Jews for the concentration camps.



Pope Pius IX: a 'reactionary and fanatical pope, stuck in a medieval time-warp'

### Swing time with the sultans of spin

John Rentoul hears gossip from Bobby's gang

Campaign 1997: how the General Election was won and lost by Nicholas Jones, Indigo, £8.99

ick Jones is an odd journalist. Indefatigable, persistent, obsessive, he is always asking questions of anyone who will listen, punctuated with his trademark "Hm?". He is interested in the mechanics of modern political communications and fascinated by the different tactics used by press officers, in the same way a trainspotter would be by an unusual arrangement of wheels. Like a trainspotter, with his tape recorder and notebook, he patiently records the workings of a system which

means to an end. The result is an odd book which in no way justifies its subtitle - as the explanation for Labour's landslide is a complex historical question but is surprisingly interesting all the same. Jones's prime oddity is that he takes spin doctors seriously and sees them as the proper subject of reporting.

most people simply regard as

Like his previous book, Soundbites and Spin Doctors, much of this one is simply an extended diary of his working life as a BBC journalist. That means it is weighed down by trivial detail about news stories of no lasting importance, but the spinning, speculating and studded with revealing bursts reporting behind Labour's

of dialogue written down

and David Hill (press officers respectively for Gordon Brown, Tony Blair and the Labour Party) and from Peter Mandelson, who holds a mythic status in the spin doctorate. The Tories are much less open, and most of the time Jones quotes them trotting out the party line. His account sparks to life when the Labour spinners work themselves into a lather of foul-mouthed fury with journalists or, in the case of Whelan on Mandelson, start dissing each other.

Whelan complains to Jones

that "Mandelson has been bollocking me all morning", and has constantly tried to undermine him. He admits that it was he who leaked the identity of "Bobby", the secret friend whom Blair thanked in his speech after winning the Labour leadership. This was Mandelson's codename, used to conceal his role from Blair supporters who were hostile to him. "I don't care who knows what I did after the way Mandelson abused me in the leadership election," Whelan says.

This is all trivial enough. except that it is, as Jones points out, symptomatic of tensions at a higher level, principally between Brown and Blair. The frustration of the book is that he takes it no farther than that After many pages of detailing

decision not to raise income

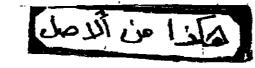
almost verbatim from Charlie tax on the better-off, for ex-Whelan, Alastair Campbell ample, Jones concludes that there was a real disagreement between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Yes, but what were the arguments? Why did

Blair get his way?

Not only do the motives and characters of the big players remain shrouded in mystery; their spin doctors are not much better exposed. The vignettes of Peter Mandelson, for example, do little to shed light on the extraordinarily complex character at the heart of the Government.

History is something that used to be written after the dust had settled and the 30year rule had opened the records, when great men and women started to reflect on their lives. Now it is attempted in the Sunday newspapers and. almost as frequently, in books like this that operate on the basis of a 30-minute rule. But a blurred insight into the way politicians and journalists interact - normally concealed from readers, viewers and voters - is still better than finding out what really happened only after many years.

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# Istage by Atican

### Behind the wall of words

Roger Clarke wants to hear from tweedy Scots as well as groovy ones

t's often said of the Irish that their greatest "revenge" on Britain was to requisition the English language and use it better than the English themselves. The Scots road, according to the school of thought promoted by the writer and editor Duncan McLean, is to reclaim forms of native "dialect" as a sign of rebellion, nationalism and literary transgression - all rolled into one tartan juggernaut. So are Scots writers now reduced to being the purveyors of mere oor Wullie speech, as quaint in its own way as anything produced by Walter Scott, except that it now hap-

pens to be about junkies? Of course, Scots – a language as old as standard English – has every right not to be called a dialect. Furthermore, it has been a mainstream and acceptable literary tongue north of the Border for centuries. Even the colonial-style flunkies of the 18thcentury Edinburgh literary scene who were then trying to remove Scots words from their local language had good things to say about Burns's mus-cular and drubbingly authentic verse.

Among more recent idioms, James Kelman has made his Gorbalssprach acceptable to Booker judges. Equally implausibly. Irvine Welsh has made the most impenetrable argot available to the masses all over Britain. And behind Welsh stands

his editor at Jonathan Cape: Robin Robertson, the

intriguing éminence grise of the Scots new wave. The way that Robertson has brought his expertise with groovy Scots writing to the service of a metropolitan publisher shows how far a oncemarginal phenomenon has come. Now, as if trying both to rebut the new Scots stereotype of urban decay and drugs, and to confirm it. Cape has published Lone Star Swing (£9.99) and Ahead of Its Time (£9.99). They are respectively written and edited by the Ezra Pound of the recent Scots literary efflorescence, Duncan McLean himself.

But what immediately strikes you about some of the figures in the anthology Ahead of Its Time (an aptly titled summing-up of McLean's cult imprint. The Clocktower Press) is that writers such as Alison Kermack often use what passes for dialect, when it is in fact a private idiolect. Their massaged spellings make individual linguistic quirks and accents look like pidgin.

It is worrying when, for instance, Robert Alan Jamieson has to resort to Scandinavian letters in his work to make himself feel authentic as a Shetland writer - as if a Dorset writer were to resurrect a Jutish vocabulary and then provide a glossary, as Jamieson does, to make himself understood. These things must be kept in perspective. It's a shame that the expressive Anglo-Saxon "thorn" letter has vanished from English – but that is that, even though its sound survives. Writers have to accept the ebb and flow of language.

Despite the references to rebellion (Clocktower's samizdat offshoot Rebel Inc. was snapped up by the Edinburgh publisher Canongate as a "happening" imprint), there's an innate conservatism to much of the writing in both Ahead of Its Time and the new Picador Book of Contem porary Scottish Fiction, edited by Peter Kravitz (Picador £16.99). Some of Kravitz and McLean's pronouncements have a busy, ardent, folksy, halfcynical and Malcolm McLaren-ish quality. This is the sound of young Turks raging against the Establishment shortly before they take it over. Does anyone really care if the Scottish Arts Council was mean to them? Not really. The fight fuelled their cause. Arts bureaucrats have always been like that and always will be.

Even when McLean travels abroad to Texas, in

amusing pursuit of his passion for the folk-roots of country-western music in Lone Star Swing, he can't forget he's a Scot. He corrects anti-British slurs not by saying these are vile stereotypes, but "no, they don't apply to me because I'm a Scot".

He also catches the virus of American racial specialisation (he's interested in culture of the Orkneys, where he lives, with its Scandinavian antecedents). McLean's identification with this backward-looking aspect of US culture is worry-ing, but it shows where his true allegiance lies: not with the experiments in craft and subject that more transgressive writers strive for, especially in the States. Rather, it's about fancy dress, kitsch and mawkish sentimentality. Nationalism has to be the least transgressive subject on the planet.

I'm sure many of the writers included in these anthologies would cringe at any notion of nationhood being hung about their shoulders. Welsh, for one, has always railed against the provincialism of Scots writing, but presumably this is a variety of provincialism from which he, Kravitz and McLean feel themselves quite safe. The success of Welsh (currently writing a novel "about a trans-

vestite Edinburgh policeman", to be called Filth) has been so meteoric that any sensible discussion of his work has to be held on a cultural rather than a purely literary level. Put simply, he is a solitary phenomenon and a lot of his contemporaries are trying to haul themselves up on his coat-tails.

Comparing these two anthologies, it's important to distinguish Kravitz's serious attempt to analyse the shifting spectrum of contemporary Scots fiction - with modernists and traditionalists alike from the self-aggrandising efforts of McLean's early ventures. Kravitz is happy to include distinctly ungroovy writers such as Jackie Kay and Allan Massie (though not Charles Palliser's successful pastiches). In this sense, he is more favourable to the tweedy conservatism deplored by Welsh, who no doubt would have a few choice words to say about the exclusion of his beloved Alexander Trocchi, whom he calls "the George Best of Scottish cni, whom he cans the George best of beotesh literature". The Picador anthology also uses little of the raw "dialect" so prized by McLean. Kravitz's editorial faults lie mostly in his earnest-

ness; McLean's, in his lack of discrimination. Between the twin poles of these books lies the truth of Scots writing - a culture with as many kingmakers and frauds as any other, but also with more than its fair share of potential genius.



### Charge of the light brigade

Charles Drazin salutes the heroic failures of British film

Films and British National Identity: from Dickens to Dad's Army by Jeffrey Richards, Manchester University Press, £14.99 Waving the Flag: constructing a National Cinema in Britain by Andrew Higson, Clarendon Press, £13.99

here is a new optimism about the British cinema. The National Lottery has poured millions into production, a new film-friendly government has given the industry generous tax breaks, cinema attendances have rocketed, and the British-made The English Patient, although admittedly financed with American money, cleaned up at the Oscars. But if the British film industry is indeed enjoying yet another "renaissance", it is only because it has collapsed so many times before. Fabulous achievement has always been a prelude to disaster. Remember Colin Welland, flushed with the success of Chariots of Fire, warning Hollywood that "The British are coming!" Shortly afterwards the industry was on its

Andrew Higson's Waving the Flag contains some sobering lessons from the past for those film producers lucky in the Lottery. He writes of a film which was hailed by the trade papers as "perhaps the out-standing picture of the year", yet with its imported American star was acknowledged to be "produced on lines frankly designed to appeal to America. Not Four Weddings and a Funeral, with its travel-brochure vision of Britain and Andie MacDowell in 1994, but

Woman to Woman with Betty Compson - in 1924. Twenty years later its producer Michael Balcon, who in the Thirties lost a lot of money trying to appeal

ing. He championed a native, self-sufficient cinema, "projecting Britain and the British character".

This has always been the dilemma for the British producer - make big films that will appeal to an American market, or little ones that can get by in the British. If the National Lottery seems a peculiarly apt source of funding, it is because whatever the decision, the only certainty hitherto has been that sooner or

the only certainty hitherto has been that sooner or later the losses will far outweigh the gains.

Higson's dry but thorough analysis of the British cinema's strategies for survival in the face of Hollywood's dominance has its depressing aspect, but there is something genuinely heroic about the way the British keep on trying. This is in itself, I suppose, a very British quality. We are, after all, the nation of Scott, Dunkirk and the Charge of the Light Brigade: one of our most treasured ideas about ourselves is one of our most treasured ideas about ourselves is

that we lose with style.
In Films and National Identity, Jeffrey Richards traces the representation of the British on film, from the Korda Empire epics of the Thirties to the "heritage" films of the present day. "National identity" is such an imprecise notion, cutting across class and region, that these celluloid images of Britain are inevitably full of contradiction. Is it the English who are famed for their reserve, or just the middle to upper classes in the Home Counties? The passage of time has also brought with it stark contrasts. The notions of duty, civic responsibility and restraint that so permeated the cinema of the Forties became a joke of Brief Encounter in 1967 at which the audience were adversity that brought them into being.

to the Americans, pursued the opposite policy at Eal- "convulsed with laughter throughout, incredulous that the lovers did not just leap into bed together". Thirty years on - perhaps because the permissive society has long lost its novelty - the film rings true again.

Rooted as much in sentiment as in objective observation, national identity is as different from true character as heritage is from history. It is a tool we resort to, especially in moments of crisis. So it is not surprising that the most powerful images of this country date from the Second World War. Of Humphrey Jennings's wartime films, Lindsay Anderson wrote in the early Fifties that "They will speak for us to posterity, saying: This is what it was like. This is what we were like - the best of us." Yet at the end of the Sixties Raymond Durgnat could complain of "their near-jingoism" and "the clichés at which the gorges and hackles of Osborne's generation were to rise".

What kind of cinema will the new generation of British producers bet their Lottery money on? As illuminating as his book often is, it would be a pity if they followed Richards's recipe. Profoundly disenchanted with the materialism of contemporary society, he believes the Sixties to be the decade when the rot set in. A period in British cinema we should treasure for its joie de vivre and openness, he regrets for its "selfindulgent individualism". In his final chapter, celebrating Dad's Army for its vision of "common purpose and good neighbourliness", he reveals himself to be a "nostalgiast". In past ideas of national identity we can find lessons for now, he suggests - as if the sense of community and idealism of the Thirties in the Sixties. Richards describes attending a showing and Forties could be separated from the conflicts and

BOOKS

avid Hume famously scoffed at the notion of post-mortem consciousness, but even the arch-sceptic may be spinning in his grave. Tomorrow, the book festival in his native Edinburgh will host a day of talks devoted to the value of feng shui in its "Lifestyle Tent". This touchy-feely teepee shelters a fortnight of New Ageaccented shindigs as a sideshow to the more orthodox events.

Adding insult to injury, the canvas Temple of Unreason stands with the other Festival marquees at the heart of Robert Adam's Charlotte Square in the New Town - a pure Enlightenment sermon in stone. It faces the tent in which BT showcases the hitech glories of electronic publishing. Someone is hedging their bets. But business looked brisk earlier this week as visitors checked out sessions on acupuncture, aromatherapy, Thai massage and all points east.

However much the Edinburgh organisers try to gloss feng shuu as a sort of turbocharged interior design, it remains a form of ancient earth magic, or geomancy. As a long-lived superstition, it ranks with (say) Tarot-read-ing and astrology, neither of which yet has a niche in Charlotte Square. It was Hume's own landmark essay "On Miracles" - itself one of Edinburgh's greatest gifts to European thought - that found the last word on the New Age, back in 1748. Hume shakes a wry head at "the usual propensity of mankind towards the marvellous" before accepting that this urge "can never be thoroughly extirpated from human nature".

Acceptance is one thing; encouragement quite another. Yet Dr Jan Fairley, the Book Festival's new director, has arguably struck a useful blow for cultural glasnost by spotlighting "personal issues of belief and lifestyle" in her first programme. What the trade calls "mind, body and spirit" publishing still flourishes mightily. To the huge pub-



BOYD TONKIN

lic that treats Hume's Enlightenment - especially in its scientific guise - as just another outworn creed, these works manage to refresh the parts other ideas cannot reach.

They fill acres of bookshop space (you can always find more books on astrology than on astronomy, Richard Dawkins often complains). They crowd the best-seller lists, propelled high into the charts by moneyspinning serial deals with shame-

less middle-market newspapers. And they keep almost every intellectual charlatan known to European history solidly in print. No one save students and scholars now reads Hume's great forerunner, Michel de Montaigne - the only modern writer Shakespeare ever copied almost word for word (in The Tempest). Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands still pore over the gibberish rhymes of Montaigne's French contemporary, Nostradamus.
This vast bookish underworld - which

keeps scores of publishers in funds, and armies of readers content - has almost no diplomatic relations with mainstream literary life. And that should bother mainstream literary folk more than it evidently does.

The Edinburgh "lifestyle" strand makes a gesture towards contact by welcoming the softer, therapeutic end of New Age thought (literally) into its camp. It nonetheless stays safely in a little ghetto. Punters who turn up for Roy Hattersley or Pat Barker, Kate Atkinson or Mario Vargas Llosa, need not know about the reflexology or "herbs for pets" advice going on across the square. Only Lynne Franks (unblushingly labelled by the brochure as "the inspiration for Edina" in AbFab) can be relied upon to straddle the gap.

Next year, perhaps, the Festival should bite the bullet and stage a full-scale debate between the deep-dyed mystics and the hard-core rationalists. If David Hume really had a ghost, it would surely float along to that.



#### **INDEPENDENT CHOICE**

#### **RURAL RIDES** by Carol Birch

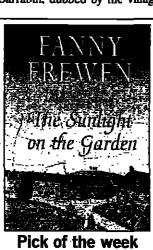
nglish village life provides the backdrop for three new novels this month, its enclosed nature a foil for dramas ranging from the romantic and fanciful to the darkly claustrophobic and exquisitely subtle. Sue Prideaux's debut, Rude Mechanicals (Abacus, £8.99), is an odd concoction of black humour, cool irony and sentimentality. Lucy and Peter Skeffington are a gentrified couple approaching middle age by means of a growing communication gap. This polite rift certs upon Peter's unspoken desire for, and Lucy's instructive resistance to, the adoption of Danny, inmate of a highly improbable local home for young offenders. So hellish is this place, with its repulsive "guardian" and his sadistic henchman, so innocent is Danny, with his Oliver Twist air and wistful questions ("where does the wind come from?"), that we are reminded of Dickens. The comparison is compounded by the fanciful nature of the characters playing out their interlinked dramas around the central axis. The vicar's crook-backed companion obsesses over animal rights, whispering mantra-like his favourite word ("utensil utensil") to calm his nerves. The garage owner is a religious maniac who insists on all family names being drawn from the Bible, and whose granddaughters are called Jezebel and Salome.

For the most part, Sue Prideaux juggles her extensive cast with skill; her dry, at times acrid, humour and sive cast with skill; her dry, at times acrid, humour and sudden glimpses of the pit balance the full-blown romance of Danny, the pure soul adrift in an evil world. Romance of a more traditional kind is on offer in Katie Fforde's Stately Pursuits (Michael Joseph, £9.99). When Hetty Longden goes to house-sit greatuncle Samuel's crumbling stately home she finds herself drawn into a fight to save the old house from the philistine plans of Samuel's heir, who wants to sell the site to developers. Unlike Prideaux's grotesques, these villagers are a friendly bunch. Mrs Hemstead, formidable matriarch with a heart of gold, makes damson dable matriarch with a heart of gold, makes damson wine and is a dead ringer for Miss Hubbard in Post-

of a supermodel and, conveniently, a SNAG (Sensitive New Age Guy) lives only a dog's walk away.
Will Hetty succumb to his "perfect son-in-law" charms? Or will she fall for dreaded heir Connor Barrabin, dubbed by the villagers Conan the Bar-

barian? The mid-

foregone conclu-



end up in his masterful but sensitive embrace. The fictional village of Swanmere in Fanny Frewen's The Sunlight on the Garden (Century, £15.99) is an altogether more believable place inhabited by believable people. Gentle, kindly Marion, whose childless state is her enduring regret, has been married for 20 years to Jeremy, who commutes to a willing mistress and a good job in the City. Marion keeps an immaculate house and throws perfect, elegant dinner parties. She has, however, a retreat, her "strange place": a wild garden below the proper garden, where growth runs unchecked. Only the children of her neighbours, the Fenbys, had shared this with her throughout their childhood. When an anniversary party brings the four grown children back to Swanmere, the scene is set for a poignant drama of infidelity, reconciliation and acceptance. Peter, the eldest Fenby son, unhappily drifting into a loveless marriage, embarks on an affair with Marion. Totally infatuated and quietly desperate, he watches the inexorable process of his own wedding plan as if it were a natural phenomenon beyond his control. When Marion becomes pregnant, having taken her own infertility for granted for three years. she allows her husband to believe the child is his. The two draw closer, reaffirming their marriage.

Truth breaks through, however, in an unexpected and moving way. Fanny Frewen's clear, dispassionate prose never falters, its restraint adding depth and dignity to the moments of passion and pain. Situations and characters are complex, nothing is predictable and Frewen eschews the easy options of fictional convention to create a sense of the real messiness of life. She celebrates the value of compromise and the courage ordinary people find within themselves to survive and find meaning in situations that are less than perfect.

She has been called "the new Mary Wesley" but the comparison seems to be based on little more than generational factors. Fanny Frewen has her own individual voice.

### Unsentimental journey

E Jane Dickson enjoys a pitiless portrait of old age

The Waiting Game by Bernice Rubens, Little, Brown, £15.99,

f Bernice Rubens ever goes to the US, she could find herself picketed by Betty Friedan and her commandos of the Third Age. In an era when senior citizens are exhorted to cast off their Zimmer frames and take up bungy-jumping, Rubens's new novel presents a vision of old age that owes nothing to political correctness.
"The Hollyhocks" is a home for the aged on Eng-

land's south coast. For the retired gentlefolk who live there, it is a kind of pre-purgatory, a place of small comfort where everyone is waiting to die. It is the house rule that this pencilled appointment with the reaper should under no circumstances be acknowledged. Residents who flout regulations are severely dealt with. When the mild-mannered Mrs Hughes becomes incontinent her peers round on her with the ferocity of "pack baboons": "She knew that they were complaining, not because of her unkempt appearance or her rancid smell. It was because she was a constant reminder to them all that wetting one's knickers and going to bed with one's shoes on was an essential rule of the waiting game they were all playing. She herself, wet and dishevelled, embodied the check before the final mate."

circumscribed here and now of her characters' lives, Rubens shows clear-eyed compassion. Unconstrained by authorial overview, The Hollyhocks' residents reinvent themselves as they see fit. The players' true natures are only gradually revealed and the effect of this slow denouement is all the more shocking.

Beneath the refined ritual, passions and perversion are stirring. The residents' secret lives include clandestine addictions, chat lines, cherry brandy, an upper-class blackmail business, sexual sadism and apocalyptic Nazi war crimes.

Rubens is grimly determined that her readers should see beyond the shawls and slippers. When little Miss Bellamy starts shricking obscenities to the baby Jesus on the Christmas tree, her libidinous ravings are dismissed by matron as "a little turn"; "Is that what they called it?" Miss Bellamy laughed. 'Well it was a turn in its way but a very big turn. I turned into my true self."

Rubens has a sharp ear for the gentle soundings of the middle classes and a killer instinct for scenting hypocrisy. A strange nephew with great expectations turns up at his aunt's funeral with "a solemn

It is rare for a novelist to dwell on the reality of face as separate as a handkerchief". Merciless in old age. The aged in fiction, and arguably in life, are generally relegated to comedy cameos or else to their characters in flashback. In dealing with the The Hollyhocks' residents, however affilient, are the castaways of society, marooned on their comfortably appointed island and left to die.

A well-meaning Christmas gift of fancy writing paper becomes a poignant symbol of their condition. There were those who were in awe of the sheer expense of the gift, and for the moment that awe procured any action. But there were those who bypassed the awe, unimpressed by the cost, and found the gift faintly offensive. For what purpose could it be used? To whom could they write 'how are you' or 'thank you for your visit' or 'how kind of you to remember my birthday' or 'many thanks for your invitation'. To whom could they write anything at all? The wounds of loneliness and isolation were painful enough without Mrs Feinberg's sprinkling of a pinch of salt."

On the whole, Rubens is a better storyteller than she is a stylist. The central image of the waiting game is laboured to a point where it becomes irritating, with the reader actively willing the players to die and be done with it. But it is the unmistakable odour of despair that hangs in the nostrils long after this honest and humane book is set aside.





By Christopher Hirst and Emma Hagestadt

Hollywood Blue by Harris Gaffin (Batsford, £14.99) A breezy exploration of the lucrative subexploration of the lucrative sub-stratum of Tinseltown which specialises in such gems as For Your Thighs Only, and The Best Chest in the West. Declaring that "the porno people are my noble savages", the author is scarcely a fly-on-the-wall reporter. Like Rupert Bear, he appears in almost every illustration in his book. Throughout this assiduous study, which takes him from the FOXE Awards (Friends of X Entertainment) to the set of Conquest, a porn pirate epic, Gaffin maintains an unwilting interest.

Junk Food Monkeys by Robert M Sapolsky (Headline, £9.99) A biologist specialising in baboon behaviour, Sapolsky is the most readable of science writers on the human condition. His essay titles are great: "Why you feel crummy when you're sick" explains how normal life shuts down when the body concentrates on repairing itself, and "The night you ruined your pyjamas" probes the increasingly early onset of puberty. The title essay reveals that baboons on a natural diet have enviably low cholestern while those district. cholesterol, while those dining on human food in rubbish dumps are prone to diabetes.

Servant of the Bones by Anne Rice (Arrow, £5.99) The queen of soft porn and apocalyptical imaginings, Rice describes an America even more frightening than the one inhabited by David Koresh and the Unabomber. When a young girl is hacked to pieces in a well-known Fifth Avenue department store, her death is witnessed not only live on television, but also by an avenging angel: an ancient Babylonian with luxuriant black hair and eyelashes

I Lost My Heart to the Belles by Pete Davies (Mandarin, £7.99) Entranced by the Doncaster Belles football team, the author moved his family to Yorkshire. The resulting paean is a winner, packed with drama and deadpan humour. Asked if she's been training, one stalwart replies: "Yeah, I ran down the shop for me fags." Davies finds a sportsmanship long gone from the male game: "It was a stupendous game calling up all the big adjectives - titanic, beroic, epic. Also honest and free of malice. You don't need to be a sports fan to enjoy it, though some may wish there were less about ligaments.

A Pure Clear Light by Madeleine St John (Fourth Estate, £5.99) Simon and Flora live with their three clever children, Volvo estate and Heal's furniture in a nice street in Hammersmith. But come July, Simon decides to skip the annual holiday in Périgord and write a screenplay. Instead he ends up in bed with an energetic accountant called Gillian. A crisply told tale of metropolitan anomie that might have been penned by Josephine Hart - only it's better.

The Mammoth Book of Ancient Wisdom by Cassandra Eason (Robinson, £9.99) From Aboriginal Magic ("Becoming a mekigar, karadji or clever man involves complex initiation rites") to Water Magic (the whiteness of the Dover cliffs is attributed to the soap of a Viking chief), Ms Eason has trawled through 40 different types of "wisdom", gathering all manner of rites, beliefs and lore to amaze

the credulous. We learn that bread should never be sliced, that a row of empty tins can divine the future and that a 'ship" shape in tea-leaves indicates "travel, possibly far away".



The creative camera at work: Albert Fassbender, one of the leading exponents of the American tradition of pictorial photography, took this powerful photograph of Manhattan in 1934. At a time when the American public's passion for 'photographs that were abstract, humorous, surreal, picturesque, avant garde and campy' was at its height, Fassbender, born in Germany in 1884 and apprenticed to a professional photographer in Cologne at the age of 13, was adept at manipulating his images to suit his adoptive country's tastes: 'he could delete telephone poles, add clouds, and make a single picture from up to four negatives'. More examples of this early practitioner of the paparazzo's art can be seen in 'After the Photo-Secession: American pictorial photography, 1910-1955' by Christian A Peterson (MIA/Norton)

Adèle by Mary Flanagan,

ary Flanagan has a studiously decadent side, a quirk that makes her fall in love with the smiles that smell of money, the good accent and the warning cruelties of a guy called Miles. Miles crops up in one of Flanagan's short stories and in a novel; she has written two books

of each form. But while this reader, at least, can't go the whole kilometre with Miles, I can follow Flanagan into all her other canyons of place and mind. Born in New Hampshire. but resident in Britain for her adult life, Flanagan writes equally



well of small-town Catholic families in the state whose licence plate reads Live Free Or Die (and they're not talking intellectual freedom) and of the baffled odysseys of the youngish urban arty crowd, rootless and a bit cokey. Perhaps her best work is found in her first collection of short fiction, Bad Girls. Its unsparing story about an

American child who is abused by her sister, and its fables of mostly British middle-class women who go dramatically mad - abducting the adolescent son of a best friend, attacking an Asian woman on a bus, or, after years of compliance, shooting a shitty lover - break the heart.

Flanagan is capable of such rare emotional intensity and precision that Adèle, her third

novel, reads as if it were written over an opaque frontispiece with an illustration of something important infuriatingly obscured. I had to read it twice to make sure that I hadn't gone blind. But no: what is meant as a lark, or a bold interrogation into the nature of sexuality through the artifice of a Gothic Romance, unexpectedly lacks Flanagan's habitual exhilaration and

There are two interwoven stories here. The contemporary tale concerns a trio of thirty- to fortyish cosmopolitans: a familiar Flanagan mix of American and British, but surprisingly dull. For thin, vaguely feminist reasons (the didactically political has never been on Flanagan's agenda),

they band together in quest of the restitution of some body parts which they believe should be buried with their owner. These "artefacts", we learn tantalisingly slowly, are a mummified clitoris and a ditto penis or, as we first perceive it. a "brown speckled object". The trail to bury these bits, and perhaps make a documentary about the matter, leads to the Pyrenean town of their heroine's birth and to an adventure which might remind

Bending genders and genres

Victoria Radin is disappointed by a decadent diversion

trio and the writing weren't so unconvinced. The other story, narrated in the first person to a vocative You, is by far the more compelling, a thriller in structure and a great

one of the true, and gripping,

excesses of the Bad Girls if the

Englishwoman of 89 living in a nursing home in the same Pyrenean town. She recalls, in excited prose, her years with the titular heroine, whom her brother recruited her to look after. The Englishwoman is dull and unattractive; Adèle is a wild child, "scandalously beautiful", who has been bought by the brother, a gynaecologist. As the time is the Thirties, genetic engineering and thus gynaecology are in the air - along with a lot of bot air pertaining to alchemy, hermsphroditism and satanic contracts, as well as plain prostitution, pimping, voyeurism and what seems more like smut than eroticism.

Horrible mainings are enacted by the gyne, though not quite

how and to whom we thought. Breathless revelations of anatomy are delivered. Blanche's torrid tale, which swooningly endows Adèle with the stereotypical attributes of the femme fatale while conjuring her as victim of the highest order, streaks past decadence into bathos.

Somewhere an opportunity has been lost for exploring not only the nature of sexual attraction (in a lesbian guise, we are mistakenly led to believe) but of that perhaps more interesting and certainly urgent subject, sexual identity. A perfectly good mummified penis has been binned. Flanagan's novels have flirted dangerously with romance but just about stayed on the high wire. Here she makes us a present of an unapologetic entertainment. But as with most works that have diversion as their central motive. Adèle is greatly less diverting than Flanagan's other, paradoxically more exuberant, sexy and serious work.

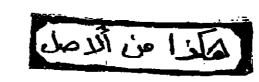
#### **AUDIOBOOKS**

saak Walton's "gleanings and observations" on the "contemplative man's recreation" are,



be explains, in The Compleat Angler (BBC, 1hr 50mins, £8.99), as much "a picture of my own disposition at such times as I have laid aside business and gone a fishing" as an effort to "make a man that was none to be an angler by a book!" The absurdity of the idea recalls a glorious age when practice made perfect, and self-help manuals were unknown. This tape is wonderful listening, full of "innocent, harmless mirth" as well as tall stories about the lovelife and morality of fish and fowl. It is read by Richard Johnson, who enters into the spirit of this most engaging of literary companions with marvellous mellifluity.

Christina Hardyment



# travel & outdoors

A summer of love, the King remembered..10,11 Rambling in Dorset ....13 Pictures of lily: Monet's inspiration. Gardening workshop.....14, 15



package holiday: an outdated institution, or the happy conclusion of 30 years of mass-market foreign travel? The way to make a reasoned judgement was to take two short breaks in a single place: one as an independent traveller, the other on an off-the-shelf package. The destination had to be the single favourite resort for British holidaymakers: Benidorm, on Spain's Costa Blanca.

Now, there are some parts in the world where taking sequential holidays in the same location may not appeal, but as a duplicate destination the Costa Blanca is ideal. Deliberately, the two trips diverged at certain points - notably on the choice and location of accommodation. Almost all the rooms in Benidorm itself are block-booked by tour operafors, but the fine city of Alicante offers an equally good base for visiting Benidorm and exploring the coast further.

In a moment, the match report, complete with match-play results. But first, the setting.

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A lot of people scoff about Benidorm, but not, in my experience, people who have been there. What more could you want? Benidorm has arguably the finest beach in the Mediterranean - or rather, a brace of them, poised eloquently like a pair of wings between two rocky promontories. And, unlike the norm in many resorts, the closer you get to the sun and sea, the more civilised things become. The promenade is really quite prim, and like the beach is spotlessly clean. The promenader is rewarded with some elaborate sand sculptures, from a crucifixion (rendered horizontally, for reasons of gravity) to representations of assorted Spanish monuments to save you the bother of travelling to Barcelona or Seville.

Benidorm's old town presides over this whole splendid affair from a central outcrop: if the beaches are wings, this is the body of the bird. True, the vista reveals about two dozen high-rises too many, but the formidable mountain range behind the town dwarf man's feebleattempts at altitude. The spaces between the blocks are filled mostly with shops, restaurants and bars. The latter compete so intensely that you need never pay more than £1 for a pint of lager (and, yes, it will be a pint; British drinkers need not fret about troublesome quantities like pesetas and litres).

Its million visitors a year means Benidorm is one of the richest communities in Spain. And some of the earnings are spent on the town's finest municipal moment: the Parque de l'Alguera. This broad, green scar carves a course for a kilometre inland, and is a finely manicured modernist concoction whose lavish trimmings - a small quarry's worth of marble, for a start - are entirely thanks to tourists like me.

Follow the park to its logical conclusion, and you any happy holiday on the Costa Blanca. The deat other end of the spectrum, on a Spanish charter little yellow-and-white Costa Blanca Express shuttles back and forth along the coast. Almost every station on its modest run deserves a visit: Vilajoyosa, the thoroughly Spanish antithesis to Benidorm; Alicante itself, draped across the foothills, where the old town resonates with layers of history, yet houses a powerful modern art museum. And Calpe, an upmarket resort which unravels magnificently into the Med then culminates in a sore old tooth of a hill perched at the end of the peninsula.

#### The booking

Both trips were selected in the spirit of generations of British tourists, ie as cheaply as possible. For the independent trip, I found a cut-price flight from Gatwick to the gateway airport of Alicante through the small ads. Everything else was arranged as I

The great thing about booking a package holiday, so the travel industry maintains, is that it is the easiest purchase in the world. Everything can, in theory, be fixed in a single transaction. So it can - but only after you have done enough studying of brochures to earn an A-level in Hyperbole with Tricky Sums. After working through an entire syllabus-worth of brochures and infinite combinations of dates/times/supplements, I concluded that the cheapest holiday of the summer in Benidorm was offered by Skytours, the budget brand of Thomson. After much study on my part, the travel agent had the easy bit - I asked for the precise holiday, and she tapped into the Thomson reservation system to book it. Result: a tie.

Almost all Thomson holiday-makers fly with the company's in-house airline, Britannia. On Election Day this year, the Seventies image of Britannia's Royal Service was thrown out as emphatically as the Major government, and replaced by a smooth, Nineties version called 360 Class. The cabin service, in common with that on all the leading British charter airlines, was excellent: good meals and free in-flight entertainment even on a two-hour hop (which was right on schedule, outbound and in).

The way they manage to provide so much is, of course, because so many holiday-makers are packed in. But miserly legroom apart, standards on UK charter carriers exceed those on most

ine chea seat-only deal I found was at the airline. This was air-travel-as-commodity. But it arrived in the right place on about the right day.

#### Winner: package, by an air mile or more. The transfer

However good or gruelling the flight, arriving at Alicante airport is an awakening of the ruder kind. The only way to escape the feeling that you are being processed with as little dignity as a tin of beans is to make good your escape as an independent traveller, carrying only hand baggage. That way, you can be installed in your hotel room long before the last wayward passenger has collected his errant bag and been shepherded from the wrong airport exit to the right tour bus. Independently, touchdown to hotel by taxi was effortless.

As a packaged person, the bus meandered through Benidorm pausing at miscellaneous hotels; equally aggravating was the "welcome commentary" by the resort rep; when I first went on a Thomson package in 1980, the opening gambit was "Welcome to Majorca - an island of contrasts", and the script has not improved since then.

In the reverse direction, the balance shifted; the bus driver, who arrived 10 minutes early, actually came and plucked me from the pool. This was less stressful than having to track down the right bus-stop in Alicante, when I decided to offset the extravagance of the taxi and catch the local bus. Winner: independent travel.

#### The accommodation

In accordance with the freestyle nature of independent travel, I asked the taxi driver to drop me in the main square of Alicante. Two reasons: the Hotel Gran Sol is not a pretty sight but has a closeto-the-action site, a block south of the square. A comfortable room cost £20 per night.

The Eva Mar apartment block in Benidorm is much bigger and much uglier, but the people who run it are equally welcoming. The view from the 11th-floor balcony - whence, local legend has it,

of other thin concrete blocks poking into the brochure-blue sky. "Planning regulations" and "Benidorm" do not regularly feature in the same sentence. That body of water in the far distance

is the Mediterranean; proximity to the beach is not always a feature of rock-bottom package holidays. Winner: independence - but earlier this month

#### the Gran Sol closed for three months' refurbishment.

Buying a package brings you an astonishing degree of consumer protection, far beyond getting your money back if the operator goes out of business. Had I tripped over a wonky pavement in Benidorm, njured myself, and decided to sue the local authority, Thomson would have stumped up the first £5,000 of my legal bill. Independently, booking a flight separately from a room, means the benevolent Package Travel Regulations do not apply.

Winner: package, by a knock-out (incurred while tripping over pavement?).

The price

Independently, I found a real bargain flight for £79 return (a more usual figure would be around £150). Two nights in the Gran Sol added £40, and transfers added £15. Total, without a modest amount of spending money, £134. A bargain - of sorts. The good news about the two-night package was that it was a real loss-leader: just £85.

The bad news was that an "under-occupancy supplement" of £7.50 was charged because I preferred not to share a small apartment with three other people.

The almost unbelievably fortunate follow-up was that thanks to Thomson's "fluid pricing" strategy, gned to reward early bookers, £50 was knocked off the price. Result: a Mediterranean holiday for

a grand total of £42.50. My travel agent was remarkably sanguine about earning just £4.25 commission on the deal, representing 10 per cent of the total. The British and Spanish governments collected £6.25 between them, which leaves Messrs Thomson with just £32 to pay for return flights, transfers and accommodation. The secret was to book at the cusp of the season: when the winter flight schedule ends and the summer timetable begins, tour operators are left with uncomfortable combinations of rooms and seats, which they seil off for whatever they

Overall winner: the package. And Benidorm.

### Safe and sound at Camp Cancún

Tour operators' concern for safety can go too far, writes Candida Lloyd

s a cheap method of getting to Mexico last December, I decided to take up an Airtours offer of a package holiday to Cancún for £450. As part of the bargain I was entitled to an introductory talk by the tour company's enthusiastic reps. Along with a group of more than 100 British tourists, I listened to lengthy

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descriptions of the resort's attractions and organised trips. I'm sure the performance was typical of hundreds of package holiday introductory talks. After my two weeks in Cancún I was left with the distinct feeling that the

travel company's main aim was to keep all its charges wrapped up in cotton wool. Meanwhile, the wary spent their excess cash on Airtours' own trips, and at the company-recommended clubs and bars. The reps have a difficult job - they want to ensure everyone has a good time. They may also feel that if tourists choose to stay in a mega US-style resort like Cancún they are not looking for

But I don't think that was pound for every hour of

the whole picture. Why suggest, for example, that you were taking a risk using the local bus system or the "bone-shaker" as they called it. Costing a few pence to go anywhere and running every couple of minutes 24 hours a day, it was far superior to anything London has to offer. Similarly, the coach system for trips further afield was condemned with a story about how some holidaymakers were left stranded in the middle of nowhere by an ignorant driver who had gone off for his dinner.

system is superb. The luxury coaches - air conditioning, videos, toilets, and even some with free drinks - cost about a

In reality, the coach

travel. They went regularly to every possible part of the country. There were no hold-ups, break-downs or difficulties in getting information and seats. Local restaurants and

visits to the less touristy parts of Cancún were also discouraged. Instead, recommendations were made for organised tours of poor people in poor housing, while pub crawls mainly targeted Americanstyle bars. The general impression given was to be wary of all things local and stick with what you know. I'm sure that for many people this was what they came for, but more timid folk would surely have been frightened into accepting the Airtours outlook of the world.



Travel money must be collected by 30 September 1997



### Warm welcome in France for Blair

Joanna Lee

Excitement is mounting in the tiny French village of Saint-Martin-d'Oydes as residents prepare to welcome the Prime iday home in the southern Minister, his wife Cherie and their three children. The family will stay in the 12th century country house belonging to the judge David Keene QC, and the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin will be staying around 20 Lang: sees Britain joining miles away. It is likely that the European Monetary Union two prime ministers will meet Labour government has a fresh two prime ministers will meet Labour government has a fresh,

informally some time next week.

Mr Blair will also be able to bask in the praise and support of the French Socialists, who were delighted by his electoral victory. Speaking from his holregion of Bouches-du-Rhône, Jack Lang, the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Socialist MP and former Minister of Culture during the Mitterand years, will not hear a bad word said against the British

young spirit about it that shows great promise for the future," he said.

"Although I found the electoral campaign somewhat reserved and cautious, I have been very impressed by the proposals of the Government over the last three months, par-ticularly regarding decentralisation, health and education,"

Mr Lang draws parallels be-Britain today. In 1981, President Mitterrand became the first ever Socialist president and ap-

He remained in power for 14 years, leading a left wing government for ten of those.

"The mood of both the Government and the people during this period in France was very similar to that in Britain today. People had a new confidence and enthusiasm, as well as a strong sense of liberation. This atmosphere is very important if the Government is to be successful."

more interventionist, compared with Mr Blair's more liberal approach. But Mr Lang explains that "this difference in policy is due more to a difference in culture and tradition, than to a fundamental difference in ideology." He is keen to underline the two leaders' "common interest in human rights and

social causes, as well as a grow-

pointed the first left-wing gov-much as New Labour has. Mr ment's foreign policy. "It is the single currency will go erument for over two decades. Jospin's approach is still far positive, constructive and pro-ahead as planned in 1999, and gressive, incorporating an he also believes that Britain will international humanitarian vision'. Mr. Lang has even written to the French foreign and defence ministers, Hubert Vedrine and Alain Richard, advising them to follow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook's lead in .

with poor human rights records. Mr Lang believes that Mr Government is to be successful." ing, dynamic economy."

The French Socialist party of today has not modernised as astic about the Labour govern
Blair's European policy is in keeping with British politics. However, he is convinced that Blair's European policy is in that he will come to the right keeping with British politics. decision." - that Britain is bet-

banning arms sales to countries

enter at some stage, although probably not in the first round.

"If the Government and the people need more time, so be it. It is better that Britain enters in her own time and of her own accord, rather than being forced ... Mr. Blair is serious and attentive in his approach to European affairs and I believe ter off in than out.

### Striking a blow for tolerance in Memphis, the city of the Kings

David Usborne Memphis

There are ten of us on the forecourt of what was once the Lorraine Motel, on tiny Mulberry Street in downtown Memphis. You would think there would be more of us. These days it is the National Civil Rights Museum and above us is Room 306 and the balcony where on 4 April 1968, Dr Martin Luther King was shot dead.

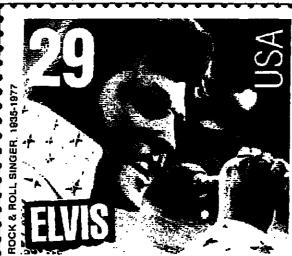
The hordes visiting Memphis this week are interested in another king altogether. It is only five blocks from here to the newly-opened Elvis Presley Memohis restaurant on Beale Street, where, at five in the afternoon, the fans are cramming behind the velvet ropes to wait an hour for a table inside

The contrast - the nearly vacant tarmac at the Lorraine versus the crush at the restaurant and even more at Presley's Graceland home - invites a snobbish reaction. What are ley before him? But Presley's they doing flocking to honour an entertainer who died fat and feckless when they could be and blues sound that had been here learning about the greatest civil rights leader America artists, added inspiration from

Because these people are on lated it into rock and roll for the holiday. Because eating deep- mainstream, black and white. fried peanut butter – one of the king's favourites - is a giggle. Because peeking at the gold-leaf wash hasins aboard the Elvis' private jetliner, the Lisa Marie, at Graceland is fun. Because Dr King could sermonise but could not sing. And because today is 20 years since Elvis' death.

And maybe because they know that Elvis mattered also. Who influenced America more in the second half of the century, King or the King? Discuss.

Ask the Nixon Library which photograph is most requested by its visitors - the President with Presley. Ask the US Post Office which of its commemoothers - the 1993 Elvis stamp.



biggest-selling artist of all time - Elvis, of course. It may be a stretch to say that Elvis was the father of Rock and Roll. What about Louis Jordan or Bill Hamusical legacy is unanswerable. He borrowed the rhythm the domain of mostly black

Wink Martindale, a TV game show host today, this week reminisced about the evening in July 1954 when Sam Phillips of Sun Records came into the Memphis radio station where he worked with the first Elvis single ever, That's Alright Marna and, on the flip side, Blue Moon. Until then, the station's ratings had depended on giving black music to its white teenage au-

gospel and country, and trans-

When they heard the record, "everyone thought Elvis was black", Martindale remembered. "We immediately knew that something really special was happening, but not one of us unrative stamps has outsold all derstood that the course of popular music was being liter-Ask RCA Records who is the ally changed overnight".

The Presley legacy Wild in The Country - Aug

beat to the white population was arguably as great a gift to racial integration as any achieved by Dr King. It is ironic then, that almost all of those mobbing the Graceland shrine are white.

More seminal was the impact on buttoned-down fifties America of Elvis' sexually-charged, pelvis-grinding stage perfor-mances, especially his early appearances on television. So deep was the shock over his gyrations and his phallic guitar gesturing, that by his fourth appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, viewers were only allowed to see him from the waist up.

"Elvis was the first public controversy of the silent, fifties generation," says John Bakker Professor at the University Of Memphis and an Elvis scholar. People, until then, had not argued about anything, not even about Korea. And from Elvis came the seeds of the social and cultural revolution that hit

America in the sixties". Hard to fathom, however, is the power of Elvis mania today. His record sales have hit a billion and a half and are accelerating. Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE), which owns erating.

Evis Presiev's first 10 number ones in the UK All Shook Up - June 1957 Jallhouse Rock - Jan '58 One Night - Jan '59 A Fool Such As I - April

It's Now Or Never - Oct Are You Lonesome Tonight? - Jan '61 Wooden Heart - Mar 61

Rock A Hula Baby

The delivery of the black Graceland and the Presley image, is a multi-million-dollar concern that has plans for a casino and hotel at Graceland and for a world-wide chain of Elvis restaurants. London should have one soon.

What is driving the craze? Is it EPE, which works so hard to protect Elvis from negative publicity - there will, for instance, never be a video of his last concert tour when his oncehandsome features had become marshmallow. Conversely the Elvis muck-raking of the tabloid media? Or the "Elvis lives" nut-cases who keep seeing him at their supermarkets? Or the legion of Elvis lookalikes

the world over? Or is it, simply, the voice? Spare a thought, meanwhile, for Dr King. The 30th anniversary of his death is just nine months away. What kind of ballyhoo will that get? Not much of a one to judge by the small table offering Civil Rights Museum souvenirs at Memphis Airport gift shop this week. Eclipsed by the nearby monster Elvis display, it has a small plastic sign on it that pleads: 'Clearance Sale".



#### significant shorts

#### Two killed as gunmen ambush Bosnian Muslims

Two Bosnian Muslims were killed and another was wounded by automatic gunfire in eastern Bosnia, Muslim-Croat federation authorities said. The shooting took place near a former front line in a village inhabited by Serbs before the 1992-95 Bosnian war, the federation said. The federation interior ministry said the Muslims were ambushed by gunmen as they drove to cut firewood in the Sapna region. Reuters - Saraievo

#### Albania peace verdict

The UN Security Council has registered the end of a peace-keeping mission it authorised for Albania. In a statement read at a formal meeting after hours of scripted speeches, the council said the mandate of the 7,000-strong Italian-led force had been fulfilled successfully but that the Albanian people and leaders had primary responsibility for the future of their country.

#### Hong Kong's moist record

The first eight months of this year have been Hong Kong's wettest period in 113 years, since records began in 1884, weather experts said. During the period 2,611.3mm of rain was recorded, breaking the record of 2,610.4 mm set in Reuters - Hong Kong

#### Hungarian challenge

The Hungarian Prime Minister, Gyula Horn, challenged his Slovak counterpart, Vladimir Meciar, to end delays in safeguarding the rights of Slovakia's 500,000 ethnic Hungarians. After discussing with Mr Meciar a nine-point Hungarian plan to improve relations between the countries, Mr Horn said responsibility for ending tension lay squarely with the Slovak government, Reuters - Gvor

#### A quiet end

A matron allegedly confessed to killing at least 18 patients so that she would not be disturbed at night and then so that she would not be disturbed at mgm and men jumped from a third-storey room in a suicide attempt. Aida Nur el-Din, 42, allegedly killed the patients with drugs stolen from the hospital dispensary, the Egyptian AP - C:

### First children join Hong Kong fathers

**Stephen Vines** Hong Kong

The first batch of Chinese-born children entitled to live in Hong Kong under a controversia new scheme entered the terri-tory yesterday clutching hur-riedly issued certificates of

Ranging in age from two years old to twenty one, the 153 immigrants passed across the

spring who have the right to live in Hong Kong under its new mini-constitution, the Basic Law. This says any child with a Hong Kong resident as a parent is en-titled to live in the territory.

The large numbers of men crossing the border from Hong Kong has ensured the birth of

parents hope will be a more prosperous future. They are among more than 66,000 off-Having given these children new rights, the incoming gov-

ernment got cold feet, fearing that the social services and schools would be swamped with hordes of Chinese-born youngsters. One of its first acts was to introduce the certificate of entitlement to stem the influx. Although it is not admitted,

Chinese bureaucracy to decelerate the process of application for residence. However, a great many children who were smuggled into Hong Kong under British rule put a spanner in the works by giving themselves up to the authorities, thinking that now they would be able to remain with legal status.

This proved to be a mistake

border at Lowu to what their even larger numbers of children the purpose of the scheme is to because the government adopt- damental rights are being taken use the slow grinding wheels of ed a hard line and started rounding them up for deportation. The deportations have been stopped by a rush of court challenges to be heard next month, which are shaping up to be a constitutional battle led by Hong Kong's top lawyers who argue that the government is breaching its own constitution and undermining the rule of law.

The government says no fun-

away but the exercise of them is ng curtailed by the practical need to verify the status of those applying to live in Hong Kong. These arguments passed over the heads of the children who arrived yesterday. Most looked rather bewildered by the fuss which greeted their arrival.

Others must be wondering what

it will be like to live with fathers

they hardly know.

### An Inaugural Offer to the Indian Ocean Paradise Isle of

What could be more pleasurable than to spend a week or two away from an uncertain British climate on the beautiful Indian Ocean paradise island of Grand Comore at the 4-star Le Galawa Beach Hotel. Our soon to be inaugurated flight service to Grand Comore via Kilimanjaro and Luxor enables the traveller to reach these once remote islands directly from the United

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7 nights half board from£695.00

facilities of the hotel or explore according to your own wishes. Day 9 Depart

via Luxor to Gatwick arriving early next morning. Departure Dates & Prices 1997 Tuesdays - per person in a twin 7 nights Grand Comore November 4. 11, 18, 25 & December 2, 9, 16 - £695.00

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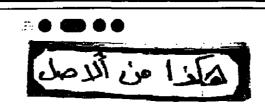
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# The king is dead, long live the king

Twenty years ago today, Elvis Presley died at his home in Memphis. Anne Perret makes a pilgrimage to America's musical heartland

Harley riders! Please don't use guest towels to polish your motorcycles." Our spirits sank. "This Harley convention sure makes me glad I'm not sleeping here tonight," the desk clerk chuckled. "Memphis is crawling with Hogs!" We shiepped our bags to our room. The traveller's hell loomed – a night spent tossing and turning, kept awake by rowdy revving from the parking lot and poolside partying. But first, dinner.

Corky's on Poplar Avenue is a Memphis institution: an old-style pit barbecue. Fragrant hickory smoke coils above the restaurant building. Inside, the décor is vintage down-home; nothing fancy, but the narrow corridor leading to the loos is covered floor to ceiling with awards.

We are a rack of slowly grilled wet ribs set up for two, costing \$16.99, and washed it down with Memphis Goldcrest 61 beer. The ribs were the most delicious I have tasted anywhere. Corky's is hugely popular, so if you go there, be prepared to wait.

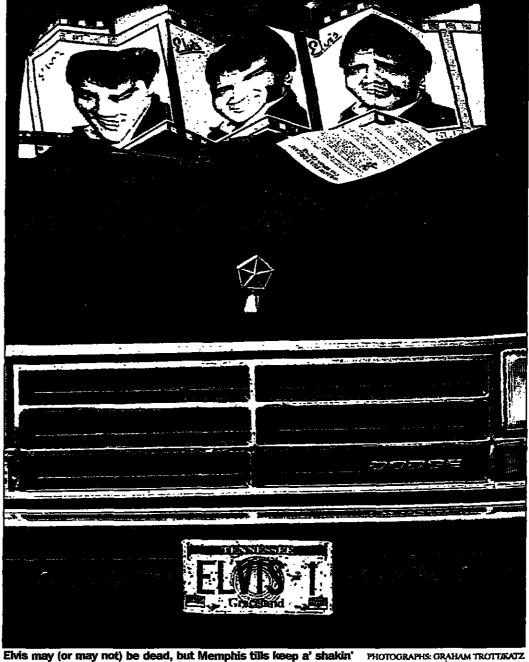
Afterwards, we went to Bcale Street. In the Twenties it was the heart of black Memphis. By night it was its blues centre, jammed with dozens of clubs. It still is. The music spills out on to the street - hot trumpets, electric blues guitars and saxophones, BB King's Blues Club is here. We went to Willie Cobb's - a large, crowded room with a small stage in one

ne sign on the hotel desk read: "Welcome corner, Its deep mauve walls are covered with autographed sketches of famous black singers - and Tom Jones. Later we drank coffee at a pavement café, and within earshot in Handy Park a woman was singing "Memphis Blues".

Memphis is famous for the people who died there: Elvis Presley and Martin Luther King. It was Elvis Week in Memphis. Events included: touring Sun Studio, where Elvis recorded his first song, going to the Elvis Chicago Style Gospel Mass and Spaghetti Dinner and the "Life and Cuisine of Elvis" seminar. As far as I know, the culinary tenets the King followed were: if you can choke it down it's yours, and quantity is of no concern. But this was not for us. No, a true Presley pilgrim makes for the shrine in Elvis Week. So the next day we went to Graceland.

Graceland is in a neighbourhood of car lots, family restaurants and failing businesses. It's not a huge house: in fact it's modest as mansions go. Elvis was 22 when he bought it, and newly famous. It's a touching expression of his need for dignity: his choice resembles the home of, say, a wealthy doctor: sensible and symmetrical, with a long, curving drive and a portico with columns two storeys high. Once you're through the front door, though, it's kitsch heaven: mirrored ceilings, wall-to-wall TVs, a jungle den.

Elvis's grave is in the grounds, marked by an eternal flame, a statue of Christ and a vivid blue pool.



moving in its tackiness, and there was a lot of weeping going on. We visited a year ago, the day after the anniversary of Elvis's death on 16 August 1977. There were immense floral tributes raised on easels: red hearts, the American flag, a pink Cadillac, and one with a handwritten message: "His Love Still Lights

Memphis does not have an imposing skyline, but it has the Mississippi. In the afternoon we rode the monorail – like Tom Cruise in *The Firm* – high above the river, to Mud Island. We strolled around the Memphis Belle - the famous Second World War B-17 bomber and movie star - and looked back at the city. On our left was an extraordinary, 32-storey steel pyramid glinting in the sun. To our right, paddlewheelers and flat-boats lay along the levee. Ahead. Memphis stacked up on a bluff. In the old warehouses on Front Street, cotton was once king. Now they are overshadowed by the new skyscrapers of a city renewing itself, part of a South that is rising again.

In 1968 it was different. Then, had you walked southwards from Front Street along Main, you would have found each block more blighted than the last, with cheap rooming houses and ramshackle stores. Then Memphis was deeply segregated. When

"In that limbo time

(I was at school in

indeed have its own

attractions, and I found

between the end of A-levels

Cambridge) and the start of

university life, fatuity did

myself agreeing to a trip to Bournemouth. My friend

knew someone who lived

there; it was summer, and a

good time for a surprise visit.

"We set out early, and

found ourselves stranded in

Winchester in a downpour.

umbrellas: it was, after all,

summer. A bread delivery

protection against the rain.

with frozen extremities, we

arrived in Bournemouth at

'After a paddle in the sea

host had moved on - no

forwarding address.

driver took pity on us, took us

everything went smoothly

until lunchtime, when we

Of course, no coats or

donated his overall as

At the grave's edge, someone had placed a dog-eared Martin Luther King arrived in that year to head a fan photograph worn thin by handling. The site is black workers' strike, he stayed in this poor neighbourhood at the Lorraine Motel.

It's still there. We walked into its parking lot, admired the sleek Sixties cars displayed there, and looked up to the balcony outside Room 306 where Dr King was assassinated. You may visit the new National Civil Rights Museum adjoining the motel. When we were in Memphis there was a young black woman who had slept 2.054 nights on a torn brown sofa on the sidewalk outside the motel. Jacqueline Smith - once the Lorraine's desk clerk - was flanked by handwritten signs: "Boycott civil rights wrong museum tourist trap". She is incensed that this spot, sacred to Dr King's memory, is a private profit-making museum and not part of a foundation benefiting poor blacks. She argues that Dr King would have wanted something selfless on the site: a hospital, through a collage of freeway ramps and bridges, was — maybe a school. If you agree with her you go to the parking lot and remember him, instead of to the

> And the Hog riders? Pussycats. Once they were rebels, with or without a cause. Now they are middle-aged and Buddha-bellied, their cause is comfort: to sit astride chrome magnificence, enthroned on pillowed bike seats. And what they wanted at the end of the day was a good night's sleep. We were not disturbed. It was no Heartbreak Hotel.

Where to find yourself a music festival

This weekend join V97, which debuted last year, in an increas-ingly competitive field, as Euro-pean Festival of the Year. It will cover two sites: Hylands Park, Chelmsford and Temple Newsan Leeds (information: 0171-734 8932/0113-244 4600). The Indie clan will perform on the NME stage with headliners, Blur, Kula Shaker, Ash, Mansun, Echobelly and Beck! Or enter the dance zone in the Muzik tent, housing the busting beats of Prodigy, Daft Punk, The Chemical Brothers, Dreadzone, Bentley Rhythm Ace and Propellerheads.

The Reading Festival over August Bank Holiday weekend (22. 24), is at the bottom of the festival time scale (and usually has the mud to prove it), muddling together a menu of indie, comedy, dance, rock and skating competitions. Headliners this year are, Suede, Cast,
James, Manic Street Preachers.
The Orb, Metallica and Terrorvision (information: 0181-963 0940).

For worldwide music on one site, check out the Womad festival at Morecambe (29-31 August). Having started out under the conceptual wing of Peter Gabriel in 1982, the festival had the aim of uniting the best musicians from all over the world. For the fourth year running it will be sponsored by North West Water and includes a gala night with proceeds going to the charity Wateraid, free artist workshops and a free event on Saturday between 12pm and 4pm (information: 01225 744494).

Celebrating the unique "pink space" in Manchester is The Village Charity Mardi Gras, a four-daylong event between 22 and 25 August. Events include DJs, cabaret, fireworks, carnival parades, a Coronation Street Party and Dance Nights at the Granada Stu-dios Tour (information: 0161-237

Meanwhile, in America, the wave of dance-mania has fully made the journey across the Atlantic and is "larging it" in The Big Top tour between 27 August-13 September. Acts include BT, 808 State, Grooverider and Head-

In Holland over the Bank Holiday weekend the Lowlands Paradise Festival takes place (information: 00 31 573 255 220). This offers a mixed bag of beats, ranging from been-around-the-block Indie-meisters, Dinosaur Jr and Lemonheads, running the full dance gamut with Grooverider, Laurent Garnier and Darren Emerson and popular headliners Chemical Brothers, Blur and Kula Shaker. And, for a cool namedrop, 23 August in Kiewit - Hasselt, Belgium (information: 00 32 11 40 22 67). Fortunately, headliners are not nearly as obscure, with Bush, Metallica, Blur. Foo Fighters. Fluke, Sneaker Pimps, Gus Gus and Baby Bird.

Jennifer Rodger

ussia has announced that it will knock three noughts off the value of the rouble at the end of 1997, to remove the sort of inflationary stigma that surrounds weak currencies (it takes just £105 to become a millionaire in Moscow £220 in newly devalued Indonesia and less than £4 in Turkey). But anyone venturing into the former USSR can expect every rogue in the East to devise scams for separating travellers from their cash.

If the experience of the Yugoslav dinar - destroyed by hyperinflation, but even today being palmed off on the unsuspecting tourists tempted to deal on the currency black markets - is anything to go by, it is safe to assume that old roubles will be misrepresented as local currency in Prague and Kraków, and that gullible tourists will hand over \$50 bills in exchange for seductively pretty banknotes



with high denominations but have absolutely no value.

A decade ago, there were worthwhile black markets from Cuba to Czechoslovakia, enabling travellers to dodge artificially high exchange rates while also injecting some much-needed financial realism into basket-case economies. Now, though, it seems that every black market functions purely as a con trick. A small truckload of Turkish lire awaits the reader who can demonstrate the most beneficial exception to

#### Anyone going to the former USSR can expect scams that separate travellers from their money

"I share your outrage about the closing of Gatwick airport's toutist information centre", writes Nesta Ross of Manchester. "You might be interested to hear about our experiences of Lisbon airport's tourist office, in utter contrast to the projected decision about Gatwick.

We had arrived at Lisbon on a cheap flight in the early evening with no reservations booked. We told the middleaged lady that we were looking for a nice, cheap pension. 'No problem', she

said, and phoned a suitable abode. 'As a matter of fact,' she continued, 'I also have a place of my own, but it's full. There are some really interesting people staying there and I'm sure you'd like to meet them. I'm going offduty in five minutes so I'll drive you up there'.
"We had a hair-raising

journey with her - she drove down the middle of the road sublimely indifferent to all the car horns protesting at her driving. After taking us to the appointed pension, she took us home and introduced us to her various guests of all ages and nationalities. We all went off to a local café for an excellent and cheap dinner."

"Alfred Bouch of Tunbridge Wells asks if anyone can top his story of irrelevant timewasting; I'm not sure if my story tops it, but it may match it," writes Elisabeth Parks, in response to our dismal tale of hitch-hiking without the hitch.

home, deciding that Oxford would be a good focus for our return route." A glimpse at a map

suggests that this was an unusual decision to take. Nevertheless, progress to Oxford was easy: "It was that last leg back to Cambridge that proved the most difficult. We chose the crosscountry route, and the 'country' emphasis proved stronger than anticipated. Our best lift was from a pig farmer whose empty truck

had space for both of us in

the back, among the remains

"I now live only 10 miles from Bournemouth, but hitch-hiking is, sadly but no doubt wisely, just a memory." "When, on a wet afternoon,

of a trip to market with his

stock. We arrived home at

4am, in much need of a bath.

we stumbled towards Black Sail's smoking chimney from the Red Pike ridge which overlooks Buttermere, we were greeted by the warden with a huge pot of tea and improbable instructions to stow our boots on the beam running across the ceiling of

the common room. The days when hostellers at Black Sail had to brush their teeth in a nearby stream are gone, but gas light is the only concession to modernity in the unheated dormitories. Washing facilities for perspiring hikers comprise a basin of hot water carried from the kitchen through a

These are the words of Teresa Allan, who died last weekend. Besides being a contributor to these pages, Teresa was a dear friend. She will be sadly missed.

field of friendly sheep.

### An Inaugural Offer to the Indian Ocean Paradise Isle of

What could be more pleasurable than to Y Y hat could be more pleasurable than to spend aweek or two away from an uncertain British climate on the beautiful Indian Ocean paradise island of Grand Comore at the 4-star Le Galawa Beach Hotel. Our soon to be inaugurated flight service to Grand Comore via Kilimanjaro and Luxor enables the traveller to reach these once remote islands directly from the United Kinghon

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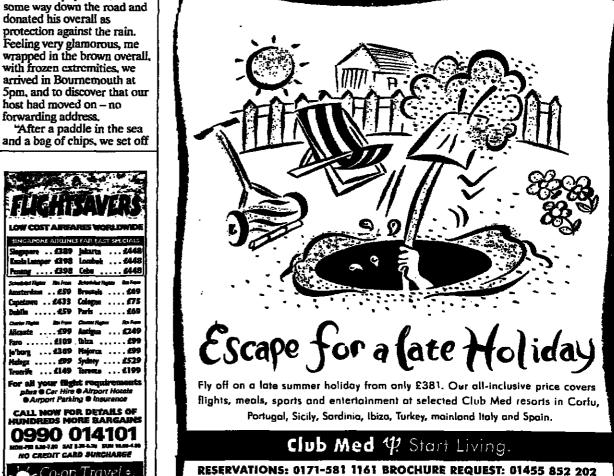
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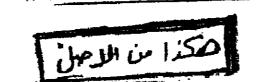
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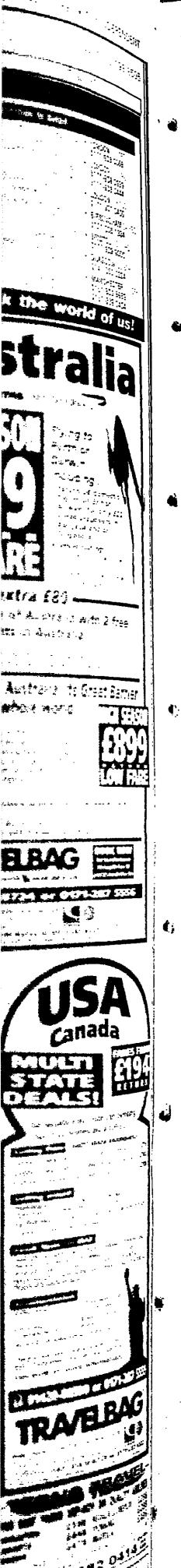
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Michael Hanlon strides out from Swanage at the start of the Dorset coast path ...

t Poole Harbour, England's bungalow coast gives way to the ramparts of the South-west. For 250 miles west, there is a path which leads all the way to Land's End. Our ambitions were not so great merely to take in the first few miles of Dorset shoreline along the precipitous Purbeck cliffs, have a dip in the briny and hopefully a pint or two in one of the many excellent pubs.

We started in Corfe Castle, a photogenic village consisting of a conical hill topped by the eponymous гиіп, and a couple of hundred outrageously pretty limestone cottages, many doing sterling service as tea shops and craft emporia. My companion, Twiglet, an Irish Terrier, spotted a shop selling home-made filled pastries, and we stocked up on a freshly baked pork pie.

After the pie shop, to the Jurassic era. The tiny town museum is something of a glass-fronted showcase for the usual suspects - old paraffin lamps and the like - but it also contains a perfectly preserved set of dinosaur footprints, excavated from a stratum found in a nearby quarry. The experience showed that in aeons past, Dorset, or whatever Pangean shore it was then, was the Serengeti of the Saurian world.

The first part of our walk was in fact steam-powered. A preserved railway (dogs travel free) connects Corfe to Swanage, an odd resort some six miles away. It is odd because it faces east, the wrong direction; the sun is always where you least expect it to be. We headed out, climbing the grassy downlands that start at the car park near the derelict pier.

Here the South West Coast Path is confusingly marked. In some places a butterfly points the way. A hundred yards on, Queen Victoria urges you forward. Eventually the Empress takes a bow and the serious walking begins, indicated by an acorn. Now the cliffs are steep and severe. Every now and then we passed a climber, all ropes and tackle and chalky hands.

Five or so miles on, Seacombe Cliff looked a good bet for a swim. And sure enough, after some slippery clambering, a less than graceful immersion was experienced. The water, clean as anywhere, was dark and deep and not too cold. Twiglet sat on the rocks, eating her share of our pork pie lunch. At one end of the cove is a sea-filled cave, cutting

more than 100ft into the low cliffs. Great for exploring by boat, but a bit spooky for swimming, the tips of kelp fronds just poking above the surface, threatening

unpleasant submarine leg tangling and slipperiness. Man and dog cannot survive on pork pie alone, so we struck north, up a steep hill to Worth Matravers in search of a pub. From a distance, The Square and Compass beckoned. As we strode across the garden, thoughts of foaming tankards and sandwiches were uppermost in my mind. But our path was blocked by a surly youth. "We're closed mate". It was half past three, the sun was burning, and a good day's takings'

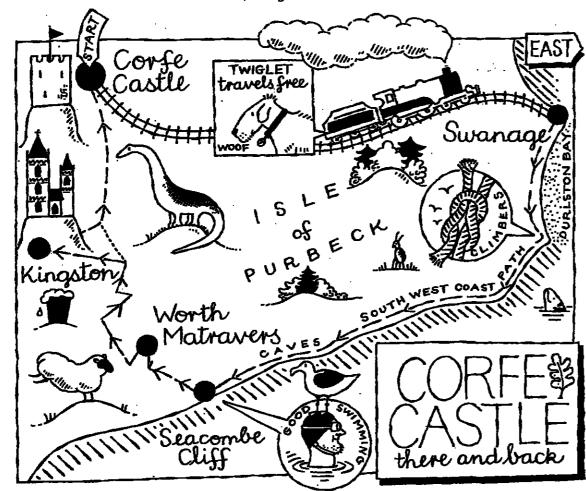
worth of disappointed customers were milling around.
The youth sped off on his motorbike. Only in England.
So, on to Kingston. Even prettier than Worth,
Kingston lies a couple of miles further inland. This ancient village boasts a fairy-tale Gothic church, with patterned round towers. Kingston's pub, the Scott Arms, was willing to serve us beer and food at the ungodly hour of 5pm. While a tired dog slurped her half of ale, her owner put away a pint and a pound of cheese and pickle sandwiches, and contemplated the final two miles to Corfe. At least it was downhill all the way.

From Corfe take the steam railway to Swanage (two per hour, 35 minutes, £3 adults, £2 children, dogs free). At Swanage, walk to the south end of the seafront and turn right over the grassy hill by the pier. From here the coast path is fairly well marked.

We walked four miles to Seacombe Cliff, and turned inland here where a marked path leads to Worth Matravers. Dinosaur footprints can be seen in situ at Acton, a couple of miles back on the Priest's Road, an inland path running parallel to the SWCP.
From Worth, there is no clear path to Kingston.

The marked track from Kingston to Corfe starts opposite the churchyard near the Scott Arms. Head down the hill, turn tight and then left through a signed gap in the fence. The path here has been obscured, but it is easy to find your way across the fields and tumuli to Corfe.

Length of walk: about nine miles Maps: Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure map 15, Purbeck & South Dorset.





# Cordial Lyme

t would be difficult to get lost in Lyme Regis - everything tumbles down the hill towards the sea. Yet Dorset's most westerly town is well protected from the ravages of ocean waves. Below the lively high street, a long promenade forms the main causeway from the town to the Cobb. the curving harbour wall that dates back to the 13th century. This massive structure has a mythic quality that has fascinated writers and artists for centuries. But although Jane Austen and John Fowles put Lyme on the literary map - with Persuasion and The French Lieutenant's Woman respectively - the town has too much self-respect and too much to offer to present you with Regency dresses or Meryl Streep's hooded face around each corner.

This engaging resort is well equipped with entertainments - including a dinosaur museum and an intriguing marine exhibition area along the Cobb. In addition, there's always the fascination of the British seaside: along the promenade sunbathers lounge on hired deckchairs watching bathers in the sea. Shops overflowing with buckets and spades are squeezed between the smarter B&Bs. A

And pebbly beaches sprawl along the coast from Lyme. There are rich pickings here: fossil hunters search among rocks or dig away at the foot of the charcoal-grey cliffs. Meanwhile swimmers brave the freezing waters, children mess about in bobbing boats and windsurfers skim out to sea.

The visitors

Catherine Stebbings, writer, and her husband Jonathan, teacher, took their daughters, Imogen, seven. Polly, five and Claudia, three.

Catherine: We had a wonderful, if exhausting day. It was lovely not to be confined to the beach all day. We visited Dinosaurland, went fossil hunting, picnicked on the beach, popped into the marine aquarium, looked around the shops and still had time for a tram ride through the country-

Jonathan: I don't like beaches; they are cold, wet and sandy, but it's

... and at the other end of the county **Catherine Stebbings** finds dinosaurs, squids and trams

important to make the effort for the children. Lyme is brilliant because it is so varied. We could break up the day between sunbathing and sand castle making with fossil hunting, museum visiting and browsing around the shops in the town. There is always something going on in Lyme, whether it's the town band playing on the parade, sand games for children, or guided walks. I would love to come back without children to walk the famous Undercliff from Lyme to Seaton and perhaps

to tackle the coastal walk over Golden Cap. We took the tram ride from Colyton, just 15 minutes' drive away, to Seaton, which was a lovely way to enjoy the countryside. By the end drop down, and you find yourself on the - of the day I felt lookhardy enough to enter the beach - patches of golden sand interspersed by large stretches of pebbles along the bopped into the murky depths of the harbour.

Imogen: I liked the museums most. We went to the dinosaur museum and saw lots of fossils and models of dinosaurs and some living animals, like an iguana and a tortoise. I did a fun shoot and the man gave me a special stone as a prize. Afterwards we went fossil hunting on the pebbly beach and I found some

ammonites like the ones in the museum. It is

really exciting to find something millions of

We had a picnic on the Cobb then went to the marine museum full of fish from the harbour. There was a lovely, rusty-coloured octopus moving slowly over the rocks, gripping with his legs then suddenly swooping away.

Polly: Lyme Regis is a lovely town with lots of old buildings and little shops selling buckets and spades. The sea was green-blue and there were hills in the distance. There was a nice sandy beach with lots of people on it and we couldn't take the dog there so we went on the little beach in the Cobb. I didn't go into the sea because it was too cold.

I enjoyed the ride on the tram. We saw squirrels and ducks on the line and herons fishing in the river. Mummy saw a kingfisher.

castles and got very dirty. Daddy fell in the sea with a big splash.

Claudia: I like the seaside. I made lots of sand

Tourist Information: Church St (01297 442138) for accommodation and co

What's on in Lyme Regis.

Parking: Use the well signposted Park and Rides as there is little parking in Lyme; small pay-and-display car parks by the Cobb and at

the top and bottom of the High Street. Access: narrow pavements and steep hills in the town make walking with children difficult. Easy access along the parade and Cobb and on to the sandy harbour beach. Dogs are not allowed on the harbour beach.

Museums: Dinosaurland is a small exhibition explaining the history of prehistoric earth and the fossilised forms

left behind. Well explained and nicely low key. Open daily 10am-5pm (later in summer): adults £3.20, children £1.90, OAPs £2.90. Marine Aquarium & Cobb History is a charming small museum show-ing live exhibits brought in by local fisherman. Everything is returned to the sea at the end of the season. Open 10am-late, adults £1.20, children five-to-16 70p, OAPs £1.

Tram rides on classic trams run daily every 20 mins. Round trips 50 mins. Adults £4.20, children £2.40, OAPs £3.40.

t is not every day that this household receives a telephone call from Calcutta - but here was important news. My friend Billy Arjan Singh, sounding unusually animated, reported that the DNA test done on the tiger hairs showed, with more than 90 per cent certainty, the presence of Siberian genes.

A Siberian tiger in an Indian jungle? It sounds like a case for Sherlock Holmes; and indeed the saga of Tara the tigress, if not exactly a mystery, has all the elements of a first-class Billy, I should explain, is now

in his late seventies, and the Grand Old Man of big-cat conservation, a bachelor living on the fringe of the jungle in a house which he himself designed. It was he who, in 1969, proposed the ban on shooting tigers for sport in India, and he who suggested that the tiger should be adopted as the country's national animal. In 1972 and 1973 he was much

involved with the launch of Project Tiger, designed to save the species from extinction, and his advocacy led to the creation of the Dudhwa National Park, a 200-square mile forest sanctuary near his home on the border with

Project Tiger was initiated in 1973, with nine reserves set aside. But Billy saw at once that the scheme had a fatal flaw.



**Duff Hart-Davis** 

A Siberian tiger in an Indian jungle? The saga of Tara the tigress has all the elements of a first-class adventure yarn

Scientists from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature suggested that a population of 300 tigers, in an area of between 2,000 and 3,000 square miles, was the minimum needed in any one gene pool to preserve the species in perpetuity - and none of the new reserves was anything like that large. Moreover, the new national parks were so widely scattered that tigers could not move from one park to

Thus, even if they survived the depredations of poachers and angry farmers in the short term, they would eventually die out owing to the effects of interbreeding.

Billy conceived the idea that he

would rear a zoo-bred cub and return it to the wild, thus demonstrating that artificial restocking was possible, and at the same time refreshing the gene pool at Dudhwa. In October 1975 he obtained

permission from the prime minister, Indira Gandhi – a good friend of his, and of conservation in general - and travelled to England to collect a female cub from Twycross Zoo, in Leicestershire.

This animal, originally called Jane, subsequently renamed Tara. dominated the next dozen years of his life. He was as nearly in love with the tigress as it is possible for any man to be, and he defended her interests with

passionate intensity. He knew from the start that she was not a pure Bengal tiger, but had a Siberian strain in her ancestry. Yet he considered this genetic diversity to be all the better for his experiment.

Tara grew up in and around his house on the edge of the jungle, never restrained or confined, and at the age of two she did what he had always said she would - she returned to the wild. In the forest she mated with one or more wild tigers, and produced at least four families of cubs. Purely as a reintroduction, the

project was a triumphant success. Yet it attracted bitter enmity from bureaucrats the world over, who bombarded Billy with letters claiming that he had done irreparable damage by releasing a "genetic cocktail" into the jungle. In October 1981, for instance, he received a letter from the director of Project Tiger in Delhi which said that "it will be a catastrophe of the highest order genetically if our breed of tigers is contaminated by one of impure lineage".

Another broadside from the same source said: "We will have to consider Tara's elimination, as well as that of her cocktail progeny." Billy replied that any elimination would take place over his dead body - but in any case he knew that the threat was futile, since only he could find or identify the tigers in dispute.

A different claim, vociferously

repeated, was that Tara had become a man-eater. When tigers began killing people in Billy's district, Khery, she was immediately blamed. "It's that bloody tiger of yours," park officials assured him. Because she had been brought up with humans, they said, she did not steer clear of them as normal tigers do. Animosities reached an all-

time high when the hostile park director shot an animal which he then announced was the hated Tara, and he exhibited the stuffed body in his house. Billy himself was called upon to kill

several man-eaters and every time he dreaded that the doomed animal would turn out to be his. But this never happened. The real Tara remained alive and well in the

Fast-forward, past innumerable blazing rows, to the Nineties. In 1992, to use Billy's haunting phrase, "Tara passed from the range." But in 1995 he began to see an extraordinarily handsome young male tiger which bore all the characteristics of Siberian stock: light colouring overall, wide stripes, large head, and a lot of

white about the cheeks and forehead.

He felt certain that there was only one source from which such markings could have derived: Tara's Siberian ancestors.

Immensely excited, he collected hairs from a spot on which the young male had been rolling, and sent them off for analysis.

Now, far from being repentant, he is thrilled to have proof that his genetic cocktail has borne fruit, and he remains convinced, in spite of furious opposition from purists, that cross-fertilisation must be the way ahead.



# Garden fit for a canvas

At Giverny, Mark Rowe elbows his way through the crowds, in search of Monet's peaceful scenes

dozen waterlilies, a Japanese bridge. "It's like something out of you have stood in front of one of Monet's waterlilies in a gallery in Paris or London and wondered if the originals bore any resemblance to the smudge that you see, then a visit to Giverny, home for 43 years to the Impressionist master, will go a long way towards satisfying your curiosity.

But you will not be alone in witnessing this restful scene. The sharp elbows that you need in front of any popular gallery painting will also be required here. I wondered what Monet would have thought of hundreds of people snapping away with their cameras, while just one solitary visitor took to capturing the scene on canvas.

visitors make the pilgrimage to Monet's gardens each year, most of them taking a day trip from Paris, just 56 miles to the south-east. The shop (a former Monet stuinevitable demand for Monet mementos and amid the usual posters and T-shirts you can buy Monet flower seeds and watering cans. You Monetmania - or,

waterlilies, nymphéas-mania. hue as the sun drifts behind clouds or is caught among the fingers of the pond-side trees. This secluded haven, which inspired so many of Monet's best-known pictures, is marked by delicate, arched Japanese bridges. Sparrows, thrushes opening time, or come late in the and nightingales hover frantically day in the hope that the coach parabove the lilies, indulging in a ties have headed back to the

he scene: a pond, a feeding frenzy on the surface-

Until 1883, Giverny was an monymous village on the border of Île-de-France and Normandy. a painting," said a Then Claude Monet arrived, purvoice above the clicking of cam-eras and whirring of videocams. If settled down to the most creative chased a house and gardens and period of his life. He lived there until his death in 1926. He was not just an outstanding painter, but also a hands-on gardener who established a tributary from the River Epte to form the Water Gardens. Untypically for an artist, Monet was recognised and paid accordingly during his own lifetime, and was

able to plough financial resources

autoroutes. Alternatively, arrive the evening before and stay at the Hotel Musardière, 100 yards from the gardens along Rue Claude Monet, a delightful hotel with creaky floorboards, old-world decor and a spiral staircase.

Today, the wailed Clos Nor-mand is full of climbing plants and shrubs to match every colour of an artist's palette: irises, rhododendrons, delphiniums and poppies laid out in neat rows and trellises. The house is covered in climbing ivy and roses. It contains none of Monet's originals, but his collection of Japanese prints has been hung on every available wall - and

the yellow dining-room and tiled kitchen show that Monet had an eye for colour that extended beyond his canvas.

Looking at this immaculately maintained scene, it is amazing to think that it all nearly wasted away after Monet's death. The house fell into disrepair, and it was only in 1977 that the Académie des Beaux-Arts came to the rescue and, with the help of several large donations, restored the gardens to their original condition, so that they could be opened in 1980. The grounds and house now form the Claude Monet Foundation, which employs a dozen gardeners to maintain the site. I watched as a gar-

dener slowly nudged a boat across the pond, navigating a course between the huge, broad waterlilies, drawing sedge from the water with a

must feature in several thousand photographs daily - I halfexpected him to row to the bank and pass his cap among the watching throng for a whip-round.

day to Sunday, I April to 31 October, 10am-6pm. Admission 25F (about £2.50) includes entry to the grounds and house. Giverny is a short take a taxi or bus from there. Hotel Musardière in Giverny (00 33 2 32210318): rooms start at 300F (about £30) per person per night.

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Around 500,000 meets the Water craft: the haven Monet created, and, above, PHOTO: RPL PAINTING: BRIDGEMAN long, spindly pole. He seemed naturally intecould describe it as 'Water Lilies' given the French word for into the garden and house. The grated into the landscape and Water Garden is located at the bot-The Water Garden is smaller tom of the gentle hill on which than Monet's paintings suggest, Monet's house stands, separated and is surrounded by a drooping from the building and the rectanweeping willow, crawling wisteria gular flower garden, the Clos Norand thickets of bamboo and aza- mand, by a busy road. It is reached green leaves of the lilies change users are able to enter through gates on either side of the road. To enjoy the Water Garden or the Clos Normand in anything like the solitude Monet must have train ride away from Paris's St Lazare known, you have to start queuing station. Buy a ticket to Vernon and at 9.30 am, 30 minutes before

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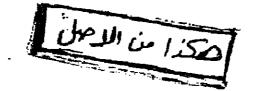
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SOMETIMES
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When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

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An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

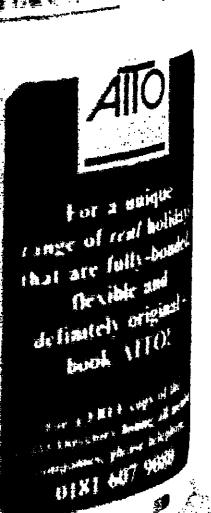
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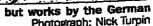
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## A dilemma for the arts elite: Middle Britain knows just what it likes



Worth the wait: more than 5,000 visitors a day flocked to the Tate Gallery, in London, to see 'The Large Bathers' (detail below, left) and other Cezanne paintings, impressionist Lovis Corinth (detail from his 'The Family of the Painter Fritz Rumpf', below, right) proved less popular





### . Queues at Tate shrink without a star name

Britain's art lovers are flocking to view well-known paintings but shun less famous or more challenging works. The Tate Gallery yesterday claimed its policy of exhibiting lesser known artists was responsible for attendance figures plummeting by more than half a mil-

Official figures provided to an MP by arts minister Mark Fisher show that the number of visitors to the three Tate galleries, in London, Liverpool and Cornwall, fell by nearly a quar-

ter in the year to April.
The Tate Gallery at Millbank in London, where numbers fell by 550,000 to 1,830,000, a decrease of more than 23 per cent, denied that the fall was evidence that the gallery had reached its

£18.7m from the National Lottery earlier this year, said it could not put on "blockbuster" exhibitions all the time and had a duty to show "discovery exhibitions". Damien Whitmore, spokesman for the Tate, said: You cannot have Picasso every three months or you would not

be doing your job. Yes, you want shows like Cezanne and Picasso which do reach new audiences but you have got to have shows which are about discovery, introducing new artists and new ideas." Last February, the gallery

exhibition of nearly 100 paintings which was billed as "the most important survey of Cezanne's attracted 400,000 to Millbank. In fact, the exhibition strad-

dled the financial year and a

third of the Cezanne visitors are

included in last year's figures. The difference in attendances for special exhibitions accounted for some 150,000 of the 550,000 visitor shortfall in the Tate's centenary year.

During the year to April, the Tate has featured exhibitions by

#### The Top Ten Tate exhibitions

Cezanne 1996, 5,109 visitors Dali 1980, 3,878 Constable 1976, 3,872 Picasso 1994, 3,617

David Hockney 1988, 2,474 Picasso 1974, 2,344 Whistler 1994, 1,812 Constable 1991, 1,783 Late Picasso 1988, 1,584

Leon Kossoff, one of the most who is to oversee the creation of important British artists of the post-war period (only 22,000 visitors and the least successful Tate exhibition for seven years), and Lovis Corinth, a pioneer of German Impressionism (29,000). Both exhibitions pulled in less than 400 visitors a day; Cezanne attracted an av-

erage of more than 5,000. The Tate also staged "The Grand Tour", designed to cap-ture the hire of Italy to writers, artists and art lovers during the 18th century and attracted 58,000. It featured works by Batoni, Canaletto and Piranesi.

But it is the overall attendance figures - provided to Tory MP Sir Patrick Cormack - which are likely to be a disappointment to the Tate director Nicholas Serota. The number of visitors for the three Tate galleries is down by over 161,000 on the average for the past five years. Mr Serota,

the new Tate Museum of Modem Art, to be built for the millennium in the transformed Bankside power station, had watched annual attendance figures rise markedly since he came to the gallery in 1988, when there were 1,500,000 visitors.

This year's stay-away comes in spite of the determination by Mr Serota and the Tate's trustees not to introduce admission fees for the gallery's permanent collection.

The Tate at St Ives in Cornwall maintained its annual attendance level at 190,000 but the Tate in Liverpool saw a decline of 30,000 to 460,000.

Mr Fisher's figures show, owever, that many museums which do charge for general admission are pulling in an increasing number of visitors.

The Natural History Museum in South Kensington enjoyed rise a of more than 24 per cent, while attendance at the nearby rose by 6.8 per cent. The Imperial War Museum in south London was up by 6.5 per cent.

Other major museums which do not charge admission prices were also increasingly popular. The British Museum had an extra 700,000 visitors and its 6,800,000 annual figure made it the most popular of the national museums and galleries. The National Gallery reported an annual attendance of 5,000,000 last year, which was 500,000 IN TOMORROWS INDEPENDENT

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#### Pre-Raphaelites 1984, 2,642 The gallery, which received 2. CD sales stuck in doldrums for lack of another Pavarotti

Luciano Pavarotti and football are the perfect harmony. But, unfortunately for the record industry, which is experiencing a sharp slump in classical-music sales, the World Cup is only

By bringing "Nessun Dorma" to the terraces, unlikely buyers were dragged into the realm of classical music and sales

Recently, however, there has been a dearth of high-profile releases, which has led to plummeting sales.

As a nation which knows exactly what it wants in the comhaving to ferret around for a reservative tastes in the hope of to £11.7m, 22 per cent down. rescuing the year's sales.

Fiona Maddocks, former edrescuing the year's sales.

Bill Holland, divisional director of Polygram Classics, said: "As a nation we do tend to be conservative and stick to what's safe. As a record company we have to identify potentially commercial records easily accessible tunes. "We're watching all the time

for music that's used in films. TV ads and sporting events. Lately there hasn't been the big hit we need but when there's a block-buster it tends to trans-

The amount of classical alburns sold in the last quarter pact-disc rack, the industry is sank to 2.83 million, a 20.5 per cent decline on the same peri-

lease that will whet our con- od of 1996. Value sales slipped

itor of BBC Music Magazine. said: "Unless there's a big hit like Gorecki's Symphony Number Three to prop the industry up, and pay for the more ob-scure things, then sales will fall. The trend is downwards." The downturn follows a dif-

ficult period for the classical market which revived in the 1980s when consumers bought new compact discs to replace their favourite vinyl recordings, and was buoyed in the ear-1990s by the success of the the violinist Nigel Kennedy and

the Three Tenors. Charles Stewart-Smith, spokesman for the British Phonographic Industry, said: "The market is like a Yo-Yo and can depend on one or two recordings. And there's also the knock-on effect - when Canto Gregoriano sold well there was interest in other chant

In 1990 16.6 million classical albums were sold. In 1992 sales dropped to 12.3 million and last year the figure was 14.7 million. The last quarter, incorporating Christmas sales, is the best-selling chunk of the year, so the industry is keeping its fingers crossed that Kennedy's new album, and October's televising of the Gramophone Awards the classical version of the Brits will boost sales.

Similarly, worries that air travel would let people buy DVDs of films in different

countries, and so ruin the studios' carefully planned film re-

THIS OLD SAFE didn't fall on Jack Daniel, but it may as well have.

One morning in 1905, the safe wouldn't cooperate with its owner (he thought he knew the combination well). Mr. Jack lost his temper and kicked it hard enough to break his big toe. Infection took a lot of people in those days, and a few years later, it took Jack Newton Daniel. Faithful to his ways, we've never altered the whiskey that bears his name. Nor, we'll admit, ever found reason to mess with that old safe.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

### New digital disc will make the videotape as outdated as vinyl

It looks like a CD player, it plays discs that look like CDs, but it does far more than just play music. The Christmas present to die for, if you've got as much money as Di or Dodi, is a DVD (Digital Video Disc) player. In a few years, these new hi-fi gadgets could make videotapes as outdated as black vinyl discs.

The CD-sized discs look no different from the music variety, yet they can hold almost 30 times more data - enough for the digitised video of a feature film, with a picture quality far better than videotape, plus soundtracks (in different languages, if required) and music with CD-quality sound. They will also give the same control over film playback as a CD, and never degrade.

Besides that, DVD players which are already on sale in the US and Japan - will also play your existing music CDs, thus completing the integration of TVs with hi-fi systems. However, such benefits do not come cheap. The starting price of



DVD players in the UK this year will be around £600 though as with CD players, released more than a decade ago, that price should fall once the market grows.

DVD players are expected on the market either this year or early next year from Philips, Samsung (which launched one here in June), IVC, Sony, Toshi-

ba, Pioneer and Panasonic. However, the Japanese electronics giants which make most of the DVD players have found themselves caught in a chickenand-egg game with the American studios which license the

leases (and attendant merchandising) has led the world to be split into six "zones", where only DVD play-ers and discs from matching zones will work together. China, notorious for counterfeiting is defined as a zone by itself. films to go on to discs. There will

by Christmas to play on any new DVD player in the UK. The reason is fears of piracy, which have already delayed the introduction of DVD. Criminals were quick to realise that it is easier to make multiple copies of a CD than a videotape, and each copy is perfect, so set-ting up digital protection has de-layed releases. The film studios

have also had to placate the gi-

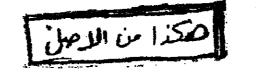
ant video rental chains, which

suspect their business - worth

about £5bn in the US alone

Thus, although you can now fly to the US or Japan and buy a DVD player, it will not play any DVD film disc you buy in this country, and vice-versa, because the discs and players have a technical key-and-lock to only be a few films purchasable

One cause for relief is that all DVDs should work in every player and so the video format wars of the 1970s between Betamax and VHS will not be repeated. However, Sony and Philips announced earlier this week that they will not cooperate with other companies attempting to devise a standard for DVDs for computers, which will be able to offer enormous. erasable storage capacity.



# Made in the shade

#### Gardening workshop: an ugly shed, little sun ... what can be done? Anna Pavord advises

We have just moved to a typical Edwar-dian terraced house in Southfields, south-west London. It has a north-facing garden with an ugly shed and one border with four very small living plants – a rose, lavender, thyme, and something with variegated leaves. We do not seem to get much sun in the garden.

My aims are to grow herbs for cooking; to grow apple and pear trees; to hide or cover the ugly shed, possibly with a vine; to get privacy from neighbours on three sides; to have somewhere to sit with a drink at the end of the day; to cover up a double manhole cover on the terrace; to change the paving to something more in keeping with the house; to reduce the amount of grass.

I do not like bright colours and would like the garden to be predominantly white or pale colours. I am keen to have more lavender. I would be grateful for ideas on what likes the shade, and what will grow fairly quickly.

are both in their mid-thirties, lived for 10 years in a Fulham flat before acquiring their first house. They were, said Tina, "desperate for a garden". Although her letter concentrated on the problems, the garden is not the nightmare scenario I had expected. The a day's worth of a decent carpenter can boundary fences are upright. The levels have not been messed up. The proportions are good, 20ft by 35ft, and the wish list that Tina made was realistic. There was even sun pouring into the garden from the west

dilapidated. It looked as though it could stand being moved. At the moment it is set against the back boundary. You look, over too short a space, straight into its long side and plain, blank window. If the shed were swung round the other way, so that its long side lay along the right-hand boundary, it would not look so dominant. And it would then present an uncluttered, clear face which Mark Podmore could over with a vine. He's a wine agent and is dead set on the idea of a Château Southfield vintage. 'Triomphe d'Alsace'

might be the vine to use. It would be prudent to treat the wooden fence with a preservative before the shed is put in its new position. The shed itself could do with some treatment, too. At the moment it is just



ina and Mark Podmore, who Shadow lands: Tina and Mark Podmore make plans for their north-facing garden

PHOTOGRAPH: EMMA BAOM

shouldn't be jazzed up, customised. Cuprinol has a range of coloured wood stains that would be ideal. There's a good holly green and some excellent smudgy sage colours. In addition, half transform a bog-standard shed into something with the charm of a miniature Edwardian cricket pavilion, in

keeping with the style of the house. Another wooden fence, sturdy and well made, about 5ft high, makes the The shed, 9ft by 6ft, is ugly, but not left-hand boundary of the garden, with a border running in front of it, the whole length of the garden. It is much too narrow, with room for only a sin-

gle line of plants. The fence has nothing growing on it, so I suggested it should be used for the fruit trees. If parallel wires are strung along against the supports, about Ift apart, the Podmores could grow espalier, fan or cordon apples and pears. Both fruit grow in their neighurs' gardens, so pollination should not be a problem.

Mark Podmore likes espaliers best. They should start with well-grown trees with two parallel sets of branches already trained out, ready to tie to their wires. Since there isn't much space to store fruit, instant eaters may be best. 'George Cave' is a delicious, crisp early

brown. But there's no reason why it apple, ready from the beginning of August. 'Ellison's Orange', ripening in September, is one of my favourite apples, strongly scented and wonderfully juicy. As for pears, 'Beth' can be picked in September or October and after storing for only one or two weeks it is ready to eat. Three trees will easily fill the space; they can be planted in

November or December this year. I went into the usual spiel about first enriching the soil, breaking up the clay subsoil, etc etc. At this point, people's eyes usually glaze over, Mark Podmore's eyes positively lit up at the thought of hard physical labour. They'd been given . seven sacks of Moo-Poo as a housewarming present and he had been look-

ing forward to putting it to the test. When the backdrop of trees is in place, tied to the supports along the fence, the Podmores will be able to think about the border. It could be at already started at the end nearest the mint, variegated iris, variegated euonymus. Those are the colours to build on: grey, blue, mauve, purple, white. I would add splashes of lemon yellow to

stop the border looking too sleepy. Some of the herbs in the wish list could be planted among the flowers in the border: variegated sage, rosemary,

the dark purple basil 'Ruffles', bright swung round, there will be plenty of curled parsley mixed with lobelia in the foreground. The sage and rosemary, being evergreen, would give winter structure, and the border could be finished off along the front with a low-growing lavender, such as 'Munstead'. A double row of bricks laid on edge between border and lawn will give the lavenders flopping space and make it easier to keep a neat edge.

There would be room for Regale lilies, the pretty little delphinium 'Blue Butterfly', agapanthus, some clumps of spotty-leaved pulmonaria, peonies, scillas, 'White Triumphator' tulips, 'Thalia' narcissus, mats of dark-leaved ajuga for winter colour, biennial evening prim-rose, snowdrops, the stinking hellebore for its wonderful, dark, winter leaves, more violas such as creamy 'Moonshine', blue 'Alata', and 'Ardross Gem'. Then perhaps they could add aquilegias least 6ft wide. Tina Podmore had of blue, pink and purple, white tobacco flowers for their summer scent and dou-

> From inside the kitchen, the Podmores will be able to look directly down the length of the border. It needs something at the end to complete the vista. Being south-facing, the end of the garden gets evening sun. It seems the right place for a seat for the "drink at the end of the day". With the shed

space to fit one in. Agriframes make a simple arbour 5ft wide which might fit the bill. Tina Podmore, who works for a PR company, fancied something less utilitarian. Mark had seen arbours at the National Trust's garden at Castle Drogo in Devon, covered in something he liked but didn't know the name of It's Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*), an unusual choice, but with lovely bark and autumn colour. They could add clematis for summer colour.

The terrace is serviceable, but covered in concrete slabs, 18in square, which the Podmores don't like. But the proportion of terrace to the rest of the garden feels exactly right and the levels seem sensible, so all they have to do is replace the paving. Since the back of the house is built of buff-yellow London stock brick, I would choose the same brick for the terrace. They should look for new manhole covers, the kind you can infill with bricks to match the surround.

I've aiready received an invitation to go back and see the garden next year. I'm looking forward to it.

Cuprinol Garden Shades water-resistant wood stain, in 10 colours, costs £7.99 a litre (01373 465151 for stockists).

The last of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden's series of summer garden tours take place this week. On Tuesday, the theme is "The gardener's palette", on how to



use colour. On Thursday there is a more general tour of the garden, explaining the work that goes on there. The tours start at 7pm, and cost £5 each. Meet underneath the Danby Arch. For tickets, call Louise Allen on 01865 276920.

English Heritage has arranged two tours tomorrow at Audley End, the great Robert Adam house which it owns in Essex. In 1763, the owner, Sir John Griffin, commissioned "Capability" Brown to lay out the landscape round the liouse. "Brown and the development of the 18th-century garden" is the subject of the tours, which start at 11.30am and 2.30pm. For more details, call 01799 522399.

N Ahmad writes from Reading with a query about lavatera 'Barnsley', which he bought in April this year. "It has grown more than 3ft but hasn't produced any flower yet. The same variety in my neighbour's garden is in full bloom. What is wrong with my plant?" Mr Ahmad doesn't say whether his neighbour's plant was put in at the same time as his, or whether it is older. It may simply be that his own plant hasn't got into its stride yet, having been planted only a few months ago. Or it may be growing in a less good situation. Mallows of all kinds like full sun best. They are not generally fussy about soils, but ground that is too rich promotes leaf growth at the expense of flowers. Perhaps Mr Ahmad has been too kind to his 'Barnsley'. Starvation rations from now on.

#### Weekend work

omatoes in containers and growing bags need a regular fortnightly dose of feed rich in potassium which encourages fruit to form successfully. The bush variety "Tumbler' (Suttons £1.70) does well in grow-bags and pots. If you can set out plants at the beginning of May, you will have fruit by the middle of July. "Super Marmande' (Marshalls 77p) sown on

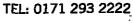
18 March has started to set fruit. These are large, meaty tomatoes, strangely-shaped, but superbly-flavoured. Nip out the tops of staked types such as this now. This will encourage the fruit that have already set to swell and ripen.

Over the next month, take cuttings of tender fuchsias and geraniums. Choose strong, healthy shoots for geraniums and crop off the top four inches. Trim the cutting at a point immediately below a leaf joint, remove all mature leaves and any flower buds and pot the cuttings up in a sandy mixture of compost. Do not cover them-Stem cuttings can be taken of hibiscus, hydrangea, kolkwitzia and perovskia or Russian sage (a tall, shrubby catmint which flowers between August and September).

Glyphosate can control fast-growing weeds, but use total weedkillers such as this on the calmest of days when there is no danger of the spray drifting. As an extra precaution, I use an old tin tray as a shield.

Where bindweed is growing amongst plants, you can untwine it and bundle it into a stiff plastic sack, then spray it inside the sack. The more leaf area Glyphosate covers, the better it works, so, paradoxically, you need to let bindweed grow before you tackle it.

Trample horsetail lightly underfoot before spraying. This bruising is said to increase the rate at which the plant absorbs the herbicide.



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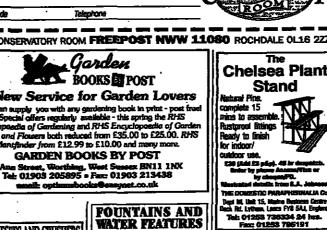


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### Supplements: who's benefiting?

Some swear by vitamins, while others are still in need of enlightenment, writes **Debbie Davies** 

then again they could be particles in the ozone layer. But to some of us they are an insurto divide the nation, and while committed consumers may understand jargon like antioxidants, carotenoids and free radicals, the majority of respondents who took part in research for Boots the Chemist remain in the dark: 60 per cent of us research company. Dietary suppleare ignorant when it comes to

Those in the biggest camp, the non users, accept the views of Dr Roger Whitehead, director of the Medical Research Council's Dunn Nutrition Centre. The centre advises the Govallowance for all micronutrients, the term medical experts give to vitamins, minerals and dietary supplements. "Our basic idea is that with a balanced diet there is no need for dietary supplements," says Dr Whitethis rule, such as women planning pregnancy, but overall rejects the idea that one can obtain optimum micronutrients for health by taking pills. "This is an incredibly complicated story," he says. "We know we require micronutrients because of what happens when they are absent." But trying to understand the effects of their presence, has left us with more questions than answers.

Before public health recommendations are given on supplements, experts like Dr Whitehead would need clinical trials to prove their safety and effectiveness. Can we

o 40 per cent of us they are ents in food, like vitamin E, when we political protesters or peo- do not yet fully understand how ple who dislike carrots: these vitamins interact with the body's receptors to such good effect? Pills bring with them the possibility of overdose and as the recent arguance policy against killer conditions ments over B6 demonstrate, more is such as heart disease, strokes and not necessarily better. And is it the cancer. Vitamins are the latest issue nutrients themselves, or is it the kind of people who choose such a diet, that explains why they do well?

In the other camp are the users, spending £343 million on vitamins, minerals and dietary supplements last year, according to Mintel, the ments, such as cod liver oil, garlic and ginseng, take the bulk of sales carotenoids; antioxidants are a mystery to 64 per cent of us; and 70 per cent have yet to be enlightened by free radicals, with two out of five respondents believing they are politicated. oil and then garlic. The constant stream of product launches has been a major factor in creating interest in the market. "It's a very young market," says Tim Legge, a pharmacist ernment on the recommended daily at Boots. Consumer interest can lead product development. "We are still catching up, launching products for which there is already a

demand," says Mr Legge The tradition of natural remedies from cultures like the Chinese or head. He recognises exceptions to Amerindian provides the basis for endless new products. Supplements developed in laboratories on the shores of Swiss lakes abound also. To this, manufacturers have added exotic rainforest plants and most recently the promise of natural beauty. The well-being of skin, hair and nails through supplements is a less contentious positioning in med-

Mintel estimates that just less than a third of us have the vitamin bug, taking supplements at least twice a week. Age is an important factor. Around one in five people in their late teens and early twenties achieve through supplements the take supplements regularly; by the benefits from eating a diet rich in time people reach their late fifties, rules governing advertising has both by the media and other manuknows it is a group with little or no fruit and vegetables? Can we repliand age-related disease becomes a meant campaigns can target confacturers and retailers. This tends to need to take vitamins, minerals or cate in capsules the mirror image. reality, this figure doubles. Age also sumers other than the elderly, the inflate the market, when compared dietary supplements of any kind in



Arguments rage between pill pushers and dieticians

plements. Only 7 per cent of teenagers taking supplements cited health benefits as their reason for doing so. Poor diet was more likely to influence their choice. By the time we reach retirement, views have changed and a third of regular users say they take them because of their health benefits.

Irrespective of age, very few people take supplements on doctor's advice. After all, we classify supplements as a food not a drug. But four years ago. 20 per cent of those taking supplements did so on their doctor's advice compared with less than one in 10 today, according to Mintel. Grocery retailers are more enthusiastic about supplements than chemists, according to Mintel. Between 1994 and 1996, shops like Asda and Tesco saw an enormous 41 per cent rise in sales; only CTNs and mail order enjoyed faster growth.

Doctors may no longer be consulted, but advertising and PR have become major influences on the market. Expenditure on advertising has risen by 87 per cent over the past four years and relaxation in the

pregnant or breastfeeding mothers. So Seven Seas, the market leader with 26 per cent of sales, has targeted campaigns for cod liver oil at teenagers, hoping to extend its appeal beyond traditional consumers who use it because of its claims to benefit suppleness as they

Mintel concludes that around 30 per cent of us are regular users of vitamins, compared with the 44 per cent get older and face arthritis.

Media coverage also has a marked effect on sales. "A product has only to be recommended by Good House-keeping for its sales to increase," says Mr Legge. He believes media comment has a greater effect on the mar-ket than medical advice, something manufacturers are well aware of. All the major companies run extensive PR campaigns aimed at journalists. Faced with adverse publicity, as had been the case recently over B6 and the legality of health claims made on packaging, the industry is quick to organise lobbying in its defence. Seven Seas, by far the biggest player, offers journalists who are writing about supplements free supplies as well as ready-made question and answer sheets and extensive data on the market. This is widely quoted, PHOTOGRAPH: MARINA IMPERI

such as Mintel. For example, Seven Seas estimates the market will be worth £500m by the year 2001, compared to Mintel's estimate of £436m. In its latest report on the market, of women, and 33 per cent of men. quoted by Tesco, figures which are based on Seven Seas' estimates.

Small or large, there is little argument that the sector will continue to grow. Long-term lifestyle changes among younger people are already benefiting the market. The growth in snacking and a tendency to skip meals, which is particularly common among younger people, favours sales on the far from proven premise that we can gain the benefits of a bal-anced diet from pills instead. But Mintel concludes the heaviest users will continue to be women in their forties, fifties and sixties, with plenty of money to spend and a considerable interest in health and diet issues. Dr Whitehead already knows this is the group of people most likely to take supplements; he also

#### UNDER THE COUNTER with Lindsay Calder

Italian we'd be cursing to work on our Vespas, in our little Max Mara linen suits and our Web shades, and he'd be cool. In Britain, people just seem to sweat – certainly the ones I've been pressed up against in the tube do. I stood next to one corpulent woman who was wearing black 70 denier tights and a dark suit – it was eighty in the shade – what was she thinking of? Everywhere you go there is an all-pervading smell of BO. I need air.

I considered my options - Iceland, Alaska, where people are fresh and there is air for the breathing. But this doesn't kind of fit in with my present plans. So I trawled around for ideas of how I could ameliorate my situation, while still remanding on British soil - it wasn't easy. What I found remanding on British soil – it wasn't easy. What I found most appealing was getting the hell out of London. And then I saw it: place of my dreams. This was. I have to admit, in the property section of Country Life, but I only bought it because the cover boy was someone I knew, pictured wearing a kilt, and captioned "Featuring the Best Legs in Scotland". So there it was, the des res. You can bet your bottom Scottish pound that you'd get sea breezes here (especially if you were wearing a kilt): the 27-acre Taynish Island, in Loch Sween on the West Coast of Scotland, is a snip at £50,000, and includes six acres on the mainland and a bath-house said to have been used by Lillie Langtry. How romantic can you get? And it is only a few miles up the water from the island where I was born. I've got to have it. The only catch, as I suppose is "reflected in the price", is that there is no house on the island, but there are the remains of what is possibly a 9th century monk's are the remains of what is possibly a 9th century monk's

cell. I'll camp – it will be cooler anyway.

Plan B. If I don't manage to become a castaway, I've got to make living in London this summer a bit more got to make living in London this summer a bit more bearable. So. I'm going to go topless. And who am I going to take my top off with? ... The Classic Car Club. For a one-off joining fee of £500, and an annual subscription of £1,500, you are given 750 points, which you then redeem to drive any of their 45 classic cars. If you choose carefully, you should get about 40 days driving a year. (The desirability of the car and the time of year dictates how many points you use.) There is a year dictates how many points you use.) There is a wonderful menu to choose from, with plenty of convertibles to meet my criteria: 1955 Ford Thunerbird; 1964 Austin Healey; 1967 Alfa 1750 Duetto; 1969 Mercedes 280 SL. But my absolute favourite - I have always wanted one of these - is an immaculate 1967 Karmann Ghia. So today, if you see a blonde woman in Grace Kelly headscarf, and Jackie "O" specs, speeding down towards the coast in a green Karmann Ghia, hamper in the back, a Bond-sesque hunk by her side, and Quincy Jones's "Soul Bossa Nava" playing on the stereo. well, I like to think it would be me.

OK. I realise this is all a bit pricey, so I have devised a budget alternative for cooling in the capital, which I think you'll find is just as effective. Take one kids paddling pool, a bottle of Campari (do not pour in pool), four bags of ice, and some stimulating company, then get in and melt.

Taynish Island, offers over £50,000, from Strutt & Parker, Edinburgh (0131 226 2500).

The Classic Car Club, 4-12 Britannia Street, London WC1, 0171-713 7313.

Kids' paddling pool, £14.99, from Woolworth's. 5lb bag of ice, £1.79; 75cl bottle of Campari, £10.85, from

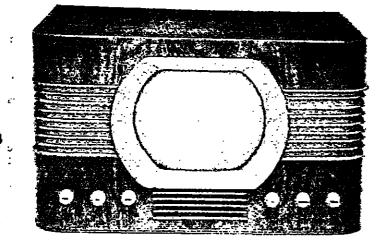
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'TV as we know it will disappear by the year 2000'. And revolutionary products are on sale now. Janet Knight reports





Boxing clever: Bang & Olufsen through the ages – from 1950, left, to the Beovision 3500 colour television of 1973, above, to the revolutionaryBeocenter

# End of the line for the tube

in the corner of your livingroom is about to disappear. Soon you'll be watching the news. Panorama and EastEnders on huge plasma screens so thin that you can hang them on the wall.

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Not only will they have unrivalled sound and picture quality; you'll even be able to interact with the characters in your favourite soap. Sounds far-fetched? Well, maybe oining in the milking at Emmerdale is pushing it, but the technology to do so is not far away.

To give us a glimpse of what the future holds, Bang & Olufsen have unveiled the BeoCenter AV5, which incorporates a flat-screen TV, a radio, a CD player and a powerful loudspeaker system.

With a flick of the remote control you can swivel the screen to wherever you want. When you're picture. The CD player has CD-I tumbling Last year, customers paid

hat square black box sitting (interactive) technology, allowing £2,000 for a 32in Philips you to use CD videos and photo CDs, where images are stored on disk rather than in an album.

Of course, all this comes at a price, and at £4,650 it is a hefty one. Not everyone will be rushing out with a chequebook when the new BeoCenter goes on sale next month, but most of us will soon own or rent a slim and wide TV screen, because the cathode-ray tubes that make our sets so bulky are being replaced with sleek, 10cm-deep plasma gas

Philips are at the cutting edge of design and technology with their wide-screen 32PW9763C TV (price £1,899). It has full surround sound, crystal-clear pictures, a split screen allowing you to watch two TV programmes side by side, and an electronic TV guide.

Wide screens may be expensive ready to watch, an electronic cur- now, but they will get cheaper - just tain unveils the screen. If your as colour TV sets did in the Fifties, room becomes lighter or darker, the when they began by costing as much TV automatically adjusts the as a family car. Already prices are

model which now costs £1,400. As fast as the design is chang-

ing, so, too, is the technology. Not content with five terrestrial TV stations and myriad cable and satellite channels, next year we see the arrival of digital TV. This will give access to hundreds of programmes from around the world, via a little box in the living-room. Who will operate it, and how much it will cost, are issues yet to be finalised. "The TV as we know it will dis-

appear by the year 2000," says Simon Poulter, of Philips, "Instead of 21in-wide sets we will have a variety of "intelligent" screens up to 42in wide, which we'll use for watching TV, gathering information and accessing our e-mail."

Bang & Olufsen's Malcolm Savill has a clear vision of the future for TV technology. "It's going to be really interactive," he predicts. "The viewer will be able to choose the storyline for a drama and whether they want a sad or happy ending.

"An interactive disc would also give you more information about what you're watching. If it's a wildlife programme, you may want to ask some questions about the animals, or the country." He also believes that: "The future

is in linking the computer and TV, so that you can channel programmes from the Internet... making it an information and entertainment centre capable of gathering material from all over the

The only thing blocking inter-active TV is a disagreement within the industry as to the type of technology to be adopted as the standard: CD-I or DVD (digital versatile disc format, which looks to be the current favourite).

It's all a far cry from the first flickering black-and-white screens that were switched on when BBC TV was born, at 3pm on 2 November 1936. At that time, fewer than 400 sets could receive the service, via a

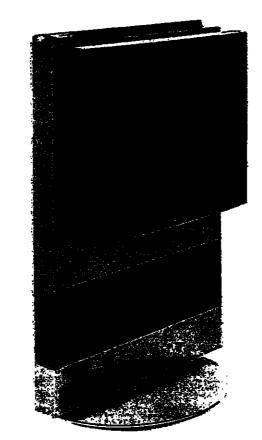
before HMV and Philips were transmitter with a 30-mile radius. A year later, 2,000 families huddled

around monster-sized mahogany sets with 10-inch screens, marvelling at history being made with the coronation of George VI. One of the first sets was HMV's

Television Autoradiogram, which cost 120 guineas. By today's standards it could hardly be called userfriendly. The picture was reflected on to a mirror on the TV's lid, while the radio and record player snapped, crackled and popped like a breakfast cereal.

mass-producing them, joined in the Fifties by Bang & Olufsen, whose original sets have become design classics. Sales continued to rise as sets dropped in price, from £60 to as little as £25. And when Elizabeth was crowned Queen in 1953, 20 million people tuned in. Now 98 per cent of the UK population has a TV set, and one in four households has three.

With 4 million new sets being sold each year, it won't be long before we're all reaching for the popcorn, dimming the lights and spending a night in at the movies.



#### **ADWATCH**

# Public relations goes nuclear

ou can tell it's a corporate ad. The succession of strikingly shot images - a lighted match, a prism refracting beams of light, lush countryside, spinning ballerinas - seems laden with symbolism.

Another ciue lies in the sonorous voice-over

Another clue lies in the sonorous voice-over philosophically posing "big questions" concerning science.

Or, more specifically, the science of power — nuclear power.

What exactly is being advertised, however, is not so clear. The company behind this new TV campaign, British Nuclear Fuels, is not "selling" nuclear power. BNFL's business is in nuclear fuel reprocessing — one reason why the resulting company is electric trather than being contact in

resulting commercial is abstract rather than being rooted in our everyday use of what nuclear power generates. Nor is it attempting to woo investors. Rather, it is using advertising to inform and shape public debate.

"Obviously because of what they are - a company working in the nuclear industry—there is much uninformed fear about what they do. There is a need for them to enter the debate," says Chris Macleod, managing director of the advertising agency behind the campaign, Collett Dickinson Pearce. "Historically, some have said BNFL shouldn't advertise. But there is an argument counter to that: if others

can put an opposing view, why shouldn't they?"
Which is why BNFL feels that the time is now right to put its side of the case.

"As a company, we have a duty to explain clearly what it is we do, to enable the public to make clear judgements about our activities rather than basing their views on misconceptions", a BNFL spokeswoman explains.

Advertising is an important part of this process, along with media events. BNFL's visitors' centre at Sellafield, which regularly attracts 200,000 visitors each year, and a range of educational programmes.

The challenge for the agency was to explain a complex issue nuclear reprocessing - in an easy-tounderstand way that would neither trivialise the issue nor bore the audience. The answer lies in the image of a match being lit, extinguished and relit. This is a

translation of nuclear reprocessing, whereby you start with 100 per cent used nuclear fuel, reprocess it, and get 97 per cent back to use a second time.

CDP had already produced a previous commercial for BNFL, highlighting the new technology on which the company's business relies. The theme then was: "Where science never sleeps". The new campaign's line remains the same, although the brief was to position BNFL more clearly in people's minds as a world-class scientific company, and to give more detail of exactly what it is that it does.

"It's not a political campaign, but a classic corporate campaign trying to get to opinion-formers who, in turn, will pass the message on to others - the classic cascade effect,"
Macleod claims. The stylised approach will distance BNFL
from the more political end of the nuclear debate, the company hopes. But does it succeed?

Without doubt the ad is stylish, visually intriguing and - in its own way - reassuring. (If the men in white coats have all the answers, what need any of us fear about the potential dangers of nuclear power, it appears to suggest.) However, for those people who are not currently being exposed to the rest of BNFL's carefully honed communications strategy the educational materials, the visitors' centre, the PR - the impact is hard to gauge. According to one source closely involved with the initiative: "We're currently researching response. In the meantime, the most we can say is we've not received any complaints yet - which, with this subject, is saving something."

BNFL's £4.5m campaign is running for eight weeks. A national poster advertisement continuing the theme launches early in September.

Meg Carter

#### The time: the school hols The essentials The place: the garden



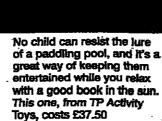
It's the middle of the school summer holidays, and like most parents you're probably running out of ideas of how to keep your little darlings occupied for yet another day. It's too late to pack them off to summer camp, so here are some ideas to keep them playing happily for hours in your own back garden:



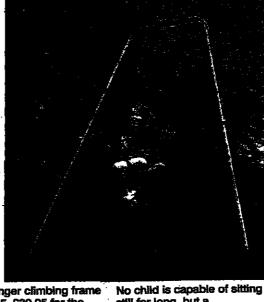
Good Toy Awards. Price

(call 01 299 827728 for

stockists)



Children can help you weed the garden with a bucket-£29.95 from TP Activity Toys and tools set, price £14.95 from The Catalogue at Presents Direct (mail order, 0171-371 7017)



A Challenger climbing frame costs £115, £39.95 for the still for long, but a radio/recorder may help. It tent, £39.95 for the basketball game set, £89.98 costs £30 from Boots for the slide and £19.95 for

If it starts to rain, then a children's cooking set, including saucepans, colanders, ladies, jugs, and in a brightly coloured striped more, and costs £22.50 from the Conran Shop, should keep them busy in the



### NDEPENDEN

Super Lightweight Gardening Shears – A Snip At Just £19.95

Save £10 off MRRP Weighing in at just 24ozs, these super-slim Eckman shears are a leaf pleasure to use and so sharp, they'll even cut paper its react; as a pair of scissors!

title manufactured from extremely tough but incredibly lightweight क्षा इंग्रिज़. And at 2ft in length with razor-sharp blades, they're longer prestional shears and will slice through stems up to 1/2" in diameter. Mades are hardened and tempered for extra durability and can be oved for re-sharpening or replacement if required. Aching manufect and fatigue are greatly reduced due to their fine balance,

iterculting action and overall lightness of construction. :The price to teaders is just £19.95 and includes an igionan 2 year no quibble dispirace and £10 saving

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Or debit my Access/Vise account with the sum of  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ My card rumber is: Send to: THE BADEPENDENT LIGHTWEIGHT SHEARS OFFFR TRUEBELL HOUSE, LONBARD ROAD, LONDON SW19 31Z Please has him I you do not mak to recover himse often from Hamiltonia.

Production on: or best communication in the Management Publication of the Ministry of Ministry of the Ministry of the



Exhausted by all the activity,

they can catch their breath

mini-deckchair, price £19.95

from The Catalogue at

Presents Direct





ROMAPTIC AL PROPE SIRI, & male, 50, erjoye shalic, rever, walking, cyclog, seeks saint women, 40-50, to give and receive affection and share adventures

Domesticated, divorced male graduate, young 51, entrys France, photography, tood, seeks sincers, sim, sensitive and make, 38-45, for committed companionably relationship, Bristot area pre-lared. 22:135

Inved. 72:1185
WELL-TRAVELLED
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deng out, seeks temata, 30°,
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build, good conversationalst, for

build, good conversationalist, for inerdesign relationship. \$T1:01 SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL Quiet, nice, hermitic, returned, ill. warm, reppy, young-looking, projection and day, 55, 5717. skim build, N/S, seeks bright, petite lacky 25-40, any race, for laughter and triandship. St. Albans area, \$T1:93

SEARCHING AFTER
ALL THESE YEARS
Tas, solvent, sensitive, militure
professional, Midlands these grad

SHARE AND CARE

SHARE AND CARE
Flomento, froughtful, presentable.
North East male crid servant, 59,
6°, loves countryside, Nabonal
Trust, Scotland, chema, oldmovies, Classic FM, books, cas,
writing letiess, seeks lemate. 4262 to shere and care. 22\*1171

MEN

SEEKING

Good-looking, actives, Asiem guy, 30, 511", likes dancing, pubs. clubs, chems, music, poemy, art, selts good-looking mels, 18-28, under 510", for fun, triendiship, 1-2-1 relationship. 15:1051

LONDON
Fit, good-looking, masculine, gayguy graduate, 29, 5117, crapped
hair, eighys cycling, country walls,
music & travel, seeks that eleave,
hardsome & intelligent soul mate.

25-35, for true romance. 271200
CRIENTAL
GUY WANTED

Pleasant, caring, stim-bult, average-looking guy, youthful 30, blue eyes, GSOH, enjoys music, disconsection of the care build, for linendship, possibly more, London area, \$27251

2 CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME Straight-acong, Wilsohre, goly guy. 30, 62°, brown haidleyes, enjoys

intelligent conversation, nights injout, politics, welking, transport & music, seeks loyer triend, 20-40,

THE FOOD OF LIFE!

7

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18

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#### WOMEN SEEKING

SOMEONE SPECIAL!
Happy woman, 40s, dark hair,
GSOH, usual social skille, young
outlook enjoys wellam, descring,
seeks male counterpart, London/
South East. 127(339
GOOD LIFE
A THE HIGH LIFE
Petitis, ferninine, Intalligent fermale,
NO, no lies, seeks successful,
sensual, sophisticated bon-viveur,
soe/socientings.

73-1040
HAPPY WOMAN
Prientily, Intelligent female gradu-ate, 56, happy disposition, but not a bite stocking, enjoys got, seeks male, up to 65, who has come to female with himself, for friendship.

TE 1041 Educated, stractive, intelligent, sim, caring widow, 70, own car, enjoys classical music, sheatre, concerts, writing, seeing places, seeing kind, protessionst/academic gentlemen, for intendable, possible relationship. Susses/Surrey

ble relationship Sussex/Surray was preferred. TE1215

STARTING OVER!
Kind, tall. slem, situractive, young-at-heart larb, GSCH, enjoys che-me, reading, gardening, general societaing with thends, seeks pref professionel gentlemen, 25-50, 510°+, good conversationalist, for intendship, possible relationship. Tenna. STILL FUN

Old, wild end skinny musician and journalist, interested in meeting sensitive, intelligent, paunchless, bloke, 40-50, in the North West, WITTY BLACK FEMALE

WITTY BLACK FEMALE
Extravent temels, late 30s, many
vaned interests, who enjoys the
best things in the seeks black
male, for thendshipfrekationship.
London area. 721201
NOTTINGHAMISHIPE LADY
Are you open-minded, turn-loving,
sensitive and in your 30st? Do you
enjoy travel, countrystips, photogngbry, wine, chatting, simplicity,
films, needing, snuggling and
adventures? Net too, I'm a temele,
33, Call mel 221239

adventures? Me too, I'm a female, 33, Call mel 231239
SPECIAL SCHEONE
Media professional, 40, quinty, huny and good news, interests include music, from Motown to Morresty, chema and knowledge, seeks London-based, emotowally articuster, good men, for joy and commanment. 271238
GORGEOUS
Attractive, professional female, 42, seeks professional female, to dinner, conversation and companionship, 271225

k, kvely, prolossional tady, 40s, sing to start a new chapter with compatible male 251170 FRIENOLY FEMALE Philipport Polipport
Chinsban, vegetarian lemale, 25,
56°, alim build, lifeas music, wallung, animels, chema, having fun,
seeks Christian, intelligent male,
similar age, GSOH, for Intendship/romanice. North Manchester

rea. 1271033 SEEKING KENT BON VIVEUR SEEIGNG KENT BON YVYEUR Hopefully attractive female, 29, 57° arearge build, GSCH, empty good food, wine, company, termins, travel, seels hopefully attractive, confidera & interesting male, 27-40, for hierarchip, possible relationship. 27:1166

SEEKING SOUL MATE Intelligent, scorppo female, 29, seeks Soul grate to theme winton.

NO MORE MIND GAMES

NO MORE MIND GAMES
Tal, divorced temate, 30s. wideout
SOH, seeks older, compassionstea, straighttorward mate, preferstea, straighttorward mate, to relight
the spark in my life. 231212

PUPPY LOVE
City professional, tall, mediumbuill, romante, straichte, black
temate. GSOH, seeks romantic,
single, black mate City professional, 32-37. NS, with MrC values,
for relationship. No time-wasters.
201180

SENSE OF FUN
Sporty, stim ferrele graduate, 33, tiondelgreen, GSOH, seeks similar male, 33-40, for friendshiphrele-forschip, 12 1020
FEMALE MEDIC Assache, brown-eyed, Anglo-lifsh female, 34, sacks sensitive male, for music and mints. 271245 SEEKING ROMEO Socialists termins.

mele, with view to temp-term relationship/marriage. NE england.
27:1024

WALK BITO MY LIPE
WALK BITO MY LIPE
WALK BITO MY LIPE
Sociable temale, 30s, loves tool-bell, films, music, stand-up, chairing, seeks beneed male, for veillos, frendship. 27:1175

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR BIE?
Bubbly, autum-haired temale, 33, loves diving out, music, aur end leagings, seeks good-tooking, telf-male, 35-45, for relationship, maybe more. 27:161.
FEMALE, 30s
Quiet, pleasant, reliable femele.
N/S, snyoys foreign street, eating out. concerts. chems, lasep-8, seeks pones, beneet, ander 40s, N/S, similar interests, for brendship, London sere., 27:1028

Interests, for hierostrip, London area, 17:1028
SALSA LADY
Intelligent, lively, divorced temale graduate, 40, enjoys travel, Lettrametean dencing, good tood, leep-fit, computing, seeks N/S, special gentlemen, must be tall, articulate, precisical, insmirous, for friendship/compenionship.
17:1022

Iriendship/companionship.
271022
PARIEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?
Professional, Ind., Sim., well-travelled, multilingual, respectable female, 32, emerald eyes, enloya children, andiques, religon, politics, current effuirs, seeks North Affican, professional, attractive, escapping, intelligent male, any racolege, for marriage. Car owner preferred. 271221
LOOK HERIE BOOK LOVERS!
Sangus-middle, lastly quiet, carring female, 42, 54°, brownigmentals, engogs welleng, singing, reading, seeks inhalityent, tolerant, active male, 40-50, for firmdahlp.
271237

active mate, 40-50, for friendship. 251237

HEARTBEAT
Professional: creative, articulate, sensitive, solvent, sincere female, 40s, N/S, seeks slightly unconventional mate, 40-50, GSOH, tooking to start a family, a great asset. 27192
YOUTHFUL

T1182

YOUTHFUL

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE

Attractive, invelligent, loving semile, 43, likes erts, sport, selling, ractart, classic & contemporary music, seeks single male, for freedship, possible meance.

Heris/Cambs/Reds/London area, All rapies analysing 27164

WARM DAYS,

BOONLIT NIGHTS

Attractive, intelligent female,

MOONLIT NEGHTS
Attractive. Intelligent female, young 44, seeks fit, attractive, proless son all the seeks fit, attractive, proless who flees dhind out, arts, travel & much more. Manchester/
Chestive area preferred. 27:1220
RED WINE AND SYMPATHY
Tall, stim, green-eyed lemale, 40s, interest anchade opera, criema, valking, seeks attractive male companion, 35-45, for Accasional dimera, GSOH more Important than shared interests. Edubruply male only need eoph. 37:1253
EASTEPIN PROMISE
Down-to-earth, caring, sincere

CAT LOVER
Sizenese cal, seeles male with tep.
Intelligent, petite lemele, 46,
seeles cal-loving male, sentier age,
for Inendating, tun, conversation
and possible more. 201228
SOMETHING SPECIAL
Outgoing female, md-40s (tailed
to mature) loves life, men, puts,
meals out with inends, diprify saliing, seeles caring male, 35-50.

SEMSE OF ADVENTURE
Tall, alim, adventurous brunette,
48, NS, seeks sincere, remente
gentement, for a louting relationstrip. Witself-tentar/Dorset areas
preferred. 22-1016
LIFE'S BEST WHIEN SHARRED
Kind, caring, honest, cheerful
lemmie, 48, NS, GSOH, entoper
outdoors, siding, bernis, "heaters,
chroma, seeing professional, hopent, cheerful male, NS, GSCH,
strider Interests, for thendstep
first, possible long-term refeatonship. 72-1208
DIVA
Tall, slim, dim/music lover, 48,

for music and mich. \$21245

Sociable termile, 34, entrys traveling, chrema, hester, art covieng, seale autgoing, neitotic male, 32-40, for inferdiship/relationship. \$2-40, for inferdiship/relationship. \$2-40, for inferdiship/relationship. \$2-240, for inferdiship/relationship. \$2-244, for inferdiship/relationship/relati

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371224.

PERSONAL INTEGRITY
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COUNTRY TEA AND CHAT
Cuiet but triandly, Cambridgeshire
temate, with interests in photography, horse-racing, antiques, old
buildings-varides, sites animats,
cycling, books, the country, seeks
horse-lowing male, 45-55, for
triendeby, 2E1172

FURAL GLOUCS
Warm, responsive temate, 50,
seeks similar, solvent male, with
energy, humour and a wild streak
to balance his seadfastness.

E1162

ROMANCE IN POOLE

Streat, sophisacated, ex-London ROMANCE IN POOLE
Smart, sophisticated, ex-London
lady, 53, 50°, slindmedium build,
NIS, seeks hard, professional'
businessurp-market gentleman,
with good finastyle, to share intendship, conversation, social funcship, conversation, social funcship gentleman with the conAttackine valow, seeks sensitive,
intelligent male, 60-65, with a liberal outlook, to share welks, theatre, music and reflective
moments. Herts/London. 27:1243

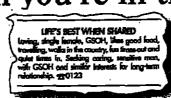
MEX SEEKING WOMEN

ROSES FOR YOU
Tall & enert, solvent widower, late
60s, living in south London, easies
lady, 45-65, for companionship. lady, 45-55, for companionary, 27:1053
WILTSHIFFE MALE!
Hardsome, unstached, sim, 8t gendleman, 50-, 6t, countryside loves, seeks very active, cutured lady, for laughter, fur, mutual support, perhaps love. Rural cottage, N Witchine, within easy reach of London, 37:1044
PRGI

Pitci
Male chauvinist, requires real
women, must be sim and stylish,
attitude-mol 351045
MALE GRADUATE
Young male gratuste, 22, seeks
similisr lemale, for tun timee, possible romance. Please get in
touch 251047
GOOD LIFE

GUITARST
Guitarist, 28, 672°, Into cinenta, swimming, cooking, eseks woman, 21-30, who is prepared to the about how we met. SW London/Surrey. 271038
ENGLISHMAN IN CARDIFF Caring, educated, professional, jail male, 29, enjoys thesire, travel, lestwast, seaks intelligent, considerate female, who enjoys tite, outdoor extinides, for triendship/more. 271049

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Outdoor-type male. 30, 82°, enjoys sports, biking, flore and ang, seeks similer, outdoor-smale, 25-35, for intend-lationship. 12 1052

WELL-EDUCATED WELL-EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL Handsome, well-educated, professional mate, dark complexion, live-ly, positive attitude, sonstitue, single female, 22-32, any nationality, NS, for relationship. West Midlands area. ET1055

MEDICAL MY BINCE. Easygoing, laid-beck, athletic male, 37, 519, afm build, likes cycling, walking, easing out, read-ing, travel, seeks easygoing, hon-est female, 25-38, for triendship/ manages. 251054.

MEDICI
Tall, well-bavelled and entrepre-neurial, seeks non-worksholic, interesting, lively lady, with GSOH, under 83, with is open-minded, and loves India. Riedio 4 sticiona-do, and Scrabbte player preferred. \$71037 LIFE'S BEST WHEN SHARED Formaric, easygoing, professional, gardine male, 39, 510°, beard/glasses, NPS, GSCH, enjoys spots, hockey, bedmitton, conversation, socialising, seeks hur-loving, cutgoing ternale, 25-40, for flamoship, possible relationship, 121043

UNCONVENTIONAL GUY
Warm, popen, pood-looking, pro-

Warm, open, good-looking, pro-tessional guy, country home/ London job, seeks petite female, SALISBURY MALE SALISBURT MALE
Vegetarian, American musician/
sus. nurse, 43, 6', fair hair. N/S, enjoys walking dogs, swimming, music, yogs, seeks strafar femelo, for triendahlp/relationship.

ATTRACTIVE MALE
Black, African mule, 25, 511\*,
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Mendshiphotedoresign, 12-12-10
TALL DARK HANDSOME
TALL SATE SITE MALE IND. CE.

ROMANTIC AMERICAN
Assituate who has not recorded a vicins great
ROMANTIC AMERICAN
Assituate lady soul mate, 50s,
N/S, sought by tall, romantic,
American psychologist, to share
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WANTED:
PETITE, PRETTY LADY
I'm a professional, sochwest and
tun-lowing man. I enjoy continental
holidays, swimming, aunshima,
dancing, good tood, laughter,
seeting petits, pretty woman, 4050sts, of strater inclination. E
Midlands area. 27:1197
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU
Tolerant, solvent, active/mobile,
Christian, retired widower, 74,
seets similar, cultured lady, with
view to mannega. 27:1216
BERKSHRE'S
GREATEST KISSEST
Outgoing, tall, fit, brots (sah) mele,
60kin, seeks amactive, patite lady,
who likes theatre, walks, music,
larguagea, ned wine and wants
possible relationship. 27:1234
LET'S BE ALONE TOGETHER
Christian, understanding, Oriental
mele graduate, 31, empys music,
seeks caring female, shallar age,
tor franchasho, possible relationship. 27:1217
TALK TORGHT?
University graduatet, 24, 6"1",
madium build, ilegs loc hockey,
chibe, pubs, having a good franc,
seeks lemale, 20-34, for fun,
frenchiphelationship. 27:1039
COLCRESTER MALE
PhD student male, 23, 5"7, dank
hair, enjoys sports, going out,
clubs etc, seeks silm, altractive
samale, 20-30, for triandship, posship relationship. 27:1039
ATTRACTIVE GRADUATE
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male, 23, 6", with GSCH, enjoys
altering 150 with GSCH, enjoys
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sharing, 150 with GSCH, enjoys
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POETIC KREGHT...

In terrished amour, 25, cooks mean toming ties withy conversation & pizza, seeks pretty, intelligent, damsel in distress, for thend-conversation and good

TALL DARK HANDSONE
Male, 23, 6'4', silm buttl, into cuture, cuistine, beautiful pleces,
women to share life, love, with perdine, camp tensile, of similar age.
Southern Engined, '27-1011
MOONLEM'R & ROSES
Entitustestic, sympathestic, envegetic, black African, 27; graduste,
N/S, N/D, seels, nice, young,
English ternele, tor a lessing rataformship, 271-198

gelic, black African, 27, graduate, N/S, N/D, seeks nice, young, English termile, for a leasting relationship. 27:1198

A KNEGHT IN SHAMOURT BRISH-hom, serabite, considerate, with, Crimese male, 27, graduate, seeks dameel in distress to rescue and live with happily ever after. 27:1192

AFFECTIONATE ARIES Sincere, loyel, intelligent, good-looking, with, romanic male, 28, 6°, enjoys theatre, diving out, walking, cinema, seeks similar temale, 25-45, no ties, for friendship, socializing, maybe more. Alicilands area. 27:1016

JEWISL IN THE CROWN
Protessional male. 58°, likes sports, outdoors, music, good conversation, good food and fun, seeks temale Observation to spartle with. 27:1173 with 171173 CHAMPAGNE & CANDLELIGHT CHAMPAGNE & CAPELLELIGH Bright, confident, romantic, Newc-astie male, 30, enjoys socialising, intalligent conversation, pop music, clining out, seeks intell-gent, socially/militarily amen-femals, 23-36, to share life's plea-

Sincera, romantic, cheerful, lively male, 30, 510°, Ghanalan origin, anlova travellino, soorts, music

LIVE FOREVER Heppy, confident, professione mele, 31, GSOH, seeks attractive genutne iernale, 20-35, for friend ship and hopefully relationship \$21179 Creative, professional, athletic, blue-eyed snale, 31, 87, seeks temals, 25-32, GSOH, who entops, pubs, country walks and sport, for leasing relationarial. 37:178

DANK GRIENE FYES Handsome man, GSOH, loves movies, good restments, going out, seek ledy, 25-40, for interd-shiptomarics. London, SE areas. 17:1199

shipfromance. London, SE areas. ET199 GAME SET & MATCH Professional male. 31, 65°, hourstyreer, sim built, enjoys sport, setting out, seeks professional, fur-howing lemels, 20°35. GSOH, for fun, finendship and possibly more. 271225

Intelligent, professional, caring, genuine male, 31, enjoys music, macing, good convetigation, country walks, seeks similar, comentic female, who doesn't take He too female, who doesn't later life too seriously. Normich area. 25'1203.

I WILL TRAVEL.

THE WORLD FOR YOU.

Almofive, down-to-east make, 31.

5'10', darn'strown, nedium build, N/S, young outlook, lites enlimate, teaset, cycling, nurring, teaseting fit, seeks loving, warm, loyed lamate, for lasting relationship.

25'1160.

Semale, for lesting relationship.

12:1160

FUNNY HANDSCREE
Furny, dark, handsome, altield
male, 32, 510°, own home(pool
job, nice friends, enjoys sports,
music, cinema, books, seeks
warm, kuny female, 23, 30, in the
15:81 Sussex area. 12:1014

PAUSE FOR LOVE
Articulate, interlicent male, 32. Ariscuste, intelligent male, \$2, seeks with, warm lemele, to share time and who knows? 271223

GIVE ME A RENGEL

EDUCATED

Professional maie, 33, wide range of interests, including travel, sport, music, bored with current social PASSION & MATURITY

MATTING FOR YOU

Sis based in London, with boylan looks, seeks eincere terrade, 25-50, for a loving relationship. London/Home Counties. 27:178.

DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER Fairly attractive, sinty solvent, sim male, 36, Boss weekiny, going out. Cests, seeks sim, attractive, attentionate, thoughthat female with SCOL. 27:189.

LET'S START AS FRIENDS Merry, sociable lensies, bought by werm, caten, collected, essygoing, literaby male, 37, employs music, spoke, arts, clubs, 27:1219.

FRED SEEKS WRIMA Attractive, intelligent, professional male, 37, enjoys sport, travel, good lood, corporassistion and company, seeking contident, intelligent, complete the property of the company of th

MAGIC AND MYSTERY
Outgoing, open-netured, onlightatraile, 38, 58°, stocky build, N/S.
GSOH, loves discovering, traveling, weight training/mring, long
weige, mountain-climbing, seeks
well-educated, open, sensitive,
chellenging lemale, 30+, tor
friendship, possibly more.
27:1249
MAKE MY DAY FORFEVER
Pleased, cutoofto, Askan male. Pleasent, outgoing, Asian male, 30+, 5'8', seeks outgoing temale compenior, no tes for inendship. READ MY AD!

READ MY AD!
Male, 39, 637, medium/large
bald, anoker, ergolys rock and
blues malic, travel, reading, outdoors, seeks bright, attractive
female, GSOH, for friendship/
romanoe. 121(27) RENEW MY LOVE
Tell guy, 39, 6'3' medium build,

diring out, seeks tall, alim, attractive female, 29-35, blonde/blue GSOH, similar interests, for friend-YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE igeni, silm, solveni, he pive mele, 39, seeks

reactive male, 34, seeks and male, for finandahip first and mething desper later. \$21168
SARDONEC YET WARM-HEARTED at, fit, professional male, rated by at least one previous grif-and, would appreciate a good-liding, unpresentious, economic, seekerster, later 30. \$2232

MATURE STUDENT (AGAIN)
Attractive, silm, invitati male, 40, returning to college (studying iterature), seeks samiter, whole-heart of ismale, to share a trugal existence, enjoys reading, cycling, long sales, talks, thought, must sard leughs. 12 1023
NEW ON THE MARKET Incest midstle, un-lower, proand National Services of the Market Honest, reliable, furniously, professional male, 40, 56°, slim build, lies classical music, bedminton cycling, photographyDIY, seeks intelligent, slim, perite temale, 30-40, NS gnetered, GSOH, good conversation, for possible long-term reliabilities. 201283

SCOTTISH ROMANCE Protessional, mobile, educated, it mells, 41, NS, seeks striking & sophisticated, midependent lady, Central Sociand. 371205

DIVORCED & HAPPY
Sessible mells, 43, enjoys sport.

Central South Annual Control of the Property o

A FRIEND FOR LIPE
Prioridly, easygoing and sincere,
Asian male, tair complication, 33,
55°, medium bublit, onloys cinema, clubs, tameging and termis,
seeks lite-minded, NS lasty, up to
53°, for triends.hip/relationartup.
25°1285
VICOUS SENSE
OR All markets VICTOUS SERVE-OF HUMOUR gent, single bather, 34, 510", VGSOH, enjoys bootball, seeks skin temals, 274, NS,

HETO,

THELLO
Tell, attatetic, professional male, attatetic, professional male, 25, seeks Intelligent, enfouriers termine, 25-32, to share his love of site. East Michards area. Tri 169
NATURAL WOMAN
Hard-working male, 35, but young-at-heart, lious reading, eating, circleday, travelling, seeks missingent, natural lemante, for thendeling. Tri 167
HARRISON FORD?!
White other missiasen, intelligent, stryligh), caring & heppy male, 35, enjoys cineme, thesity, esting out & travel, easing immune, caring immule, similar interests, for translating, country pursually, contraling, travel, easies malure, caring immule, similar interests, for translating, possible relationship, North East England.

27 1207

university-educated mate, sed in London, with boylah seeks bindere female, 25-

Seeking younger temels. 251241
WELL-TRAVELLED GENT
Presentable, sinn, young-looking
make, 48, 671, seeks atm, atmantive, Ahlcan ledy, to start a new Be
eith. 131028
FARREGROUND ATTRACTION
Humorous, athationate, articulate
make, 45, files threat, pinns, science, countryside, antiques,
seeks thoughald, atmative, outgomg female, for fun, music and culture in the East Midends. 271181
CREATIVE ATTRIST
Piscoan male, 46, 5'9' visual
artist, N/S, with wide interests,
hauding fine ant, fiterature and
music, seeks intelligent, creative,
unatisched temale, 35-42, for passible relationship. NE Hants
based. 271208
DO YOU LIKE.

Lite good things in Be, lood,
whe, conversation? Short, dark,
handsome, sohent male, 47,
seeks unstached women, 30-45,
to share these with Edinburgh
and East Lotham. Effects 4,
seeks installigent male, 47-55, for
rivendabliprelationship Lincoln
area, 271018
WENDINY SCERES HOLLIDAY

triendship/relationship Lincoln gree, 27:019
HENDRIX SEEKS HOLLIDAY Outgoing musician, 48, dank hair, sim build, GSOH, ihres by the see, enjoys aport, jazzbrussidasskal music, outdoor achivities, seeks smart, outgoing lemate, 25:40, for friendship. possably more 17:165
LOCKING FOR SOMEONES SPECIAL Male, 40s, mid-Cheshiro, enjoys countryside quiet pubs. Radio 4, and classical music, seeks

countyside quiet puist, seeks and dessical music, seeks female, 35-40, perhaps with similar interests, N/S, for intendable, possible relationship. \$7:1017 CHANCE OF A LIFETIME 9/10. 221231 IT'S GOOD TO TALK

IT'S GOOD TO TALK
Professional, handeame, North
London male economist, 50, 6':
Ioves Mediterranean lood, cooking, seeks talk, warm, attractive,
intelligent female, for Intendating,
conversation and poseibly more. TE 1222
UNCONVENTIONAL MALE Male, 50, lover of the arts, classi-cal music and jazz, seeks similar, intelligent. Inse-thinking lemale.

ATTRACTIVE MALE ATTRACTIVE MALE

Outgoing, confident, effectionate,
genulne male, 50, 59°, enjoys
music, cinema, current affairs,
widdle, some sports, seeks similar famale, 30-45, for long-term
relationatep. 37 1252

1 IS A LONELY MUS Professional, young, attractive, gay guy, seeks singer gay guy, for fun and irlandable formation

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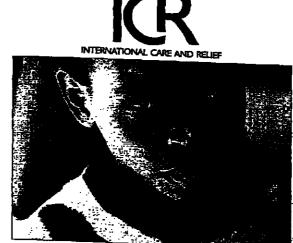
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### In car parks around the country you'll see executives performing tribal routines

have just enjoyed a week with one of the most beautiful, charming, characterful cars I have ever driven. The Peugeot 406 coupé proves that not all cars have to look the same, or drive the same. It proves that you don't have to be called BMW. Porsche or Mercedes to create a handsome coupé that costs more than £25,000. It also proves that I can come away from a week's motoring loving a car that, for 30 wretched minutes, was about as active as a football-mad couch potato watching live TV coverage of the FA Cup final.

This new R-reg car wasn't the only one giving problems in early August. The RAC and the AA have received a record number of calls this month from owners unable to athom the complexities of their immobilisers.

fathom the complexities of their immobilisers.

I hate immobilisers in general. Sure, the idea is worthy enough: fit a clever electric circuit breaker into the ignition so that if the wrong guy wants to drive off with your new Wizzo GTi, the engine won't start. Trouble is, for every crook who's immobilised, 1,000 honest owners are stranded. The ancient art of inserting keys into ignition, and turning them to activate engines is slowly being lost. and turning them to activate engines, is slowly being lost.

Now, increasingly, you have to point key fobs containing magical plippers at cars to open them. Many of the plippers won't work unless they're aimed at exactly the right place. Which explains why, in many executive car parks around Britain, you'll often see besuited executives in front of their new N- or P-reg motors doing strange primeral denses thurbe and forms. primeval dances, thumbs and fingers performing odd tribalistic routines. They look like they're paying homage to the God of 20th-century consumerism: the motor car.

Once behind the wheel, the routine doesn't get any easier. Remember when you would simply use the same key that unlocked the car to turn on the ignition and then, once the engine started, you'd drive away?

Nowadays, in many modern cars, such convenience is a thing of the past - as old-fashioned as the notion that banks would respect your privacy, instead of selling your address and details to any two-bit mail-order company. Now, on many cars, you need to key in a security code,



Gavin Green

On others, you must plip the plipper one more time, to bypass the immobiliser and start the engine. On others, you must plip twice when behind the wheel. Some cars automatically shut down if there is a 30-second delay between unlocking the car and trying to start the ignition; others wait longer. To conclude, the simple art of starting cars is now one of the most arcane and complicated in modern-day

otherwise your car won't start.

motoring. (Obviously these immobilising devices were created by childless bachelors, as any parent knows it takes well over 30 seconds, and often a few minutes, to strap young children into the car before you start the engine.)

I got into trouble with the 406 coupé while refuelling. After I'd paid the bill, the car wouldn't start. Suspecting the immobiliser, I discovered that the car would only start if I keyed in the correct code - even though, during my

previous six days of motoring, I hadn't used the code at all. Trouble was, I didn't know the code. I guessed. It was wrong. I tried another code. Wrong. One more guess. Wrong. Then the car emitted a dull, persistent beep, as if to taunt my stupidity. (Three goes and you're out!)

A quick look at the handbook and I discovered that, after three incorrect code attempts, the car's engine automatically shuts down for 30 minutes. The Fina garage at Chiswick has few entertainments for those forced to spend half an hour there.

I have been wrongly immobilised by immobilisers, and the wretched alarms that often aid and abet them, before. 1 remember once being unable to get a £200,000-plus Bentley convertible going, after dutifully switching the engine off at a railway crossing. Other motorists, whose second-hand Fords and Vauxhalls seemed to be going just fine, thank you, were amused. I was not.

Another Bentley locked itself - keys inside - in a car wash. A £50,000 Jaguar XJR also decided to lock all its doors – but with engine running – when parked across my drive. Fortunately I had a spare set of keys and a spare plipper, otherwise - well, otherwise I don't know what I would have done. Once, in a Mercedes, with family and chattels on board on the way to a weekend break in Wales, the immobiliser just couldn't be persuaded to stop immobilising. It happened after refuelling. No matter how many times I pressed that damned plipper, and in what sequence, the engine wouldn't engage. Finally, inexplicably, it went, and we duly had our family weekend break in Wales rather than at Watford Gap services on the

M1. I still don't know why it decided to go.

The other day, my wife was completely flummoxed by an unfamiliar Renault Megane Cabriolet's immobiliser in the car park of a sports club. Had it not been for a couple of big-hearted car-washing guys, who were more familiar with

big-hearted car-washing guys, who were more familiar with the vagaries of modern car gadgetry, she would probably still be there, plipping plippers, hoping to unlock the magical sequence that would ensure action.

A few car-makers do get it right. Among them is Ford, whose immobiliser is a simple device fitted into the key. If the right key is inserted into the ignition, the engine starts—just like it used to do on old-fashioned Cortinas and Escorts. This prevents hot wiring. But it also prevents car park war-dances and stationary luxury cars on garage

forecourts and level crossings.

It may not be quite as thief-proof as complicated plippers and whatnot, understood by only the most computer-literate of car owners. After all, any crook could be a supplied to the least the least the impirior. take off in your Ford, if you leave the key in the ignition.
With other systems, the thief would have to push buttons

and make strange hand gesticulations before scarpering.

Personally, I'll take the risk. Give me keys and locks any day. And cars that start when I want them to, not when some unfathomable computer programme says it's OK.

# Chamois vs Crewe's missile



Little and large: John Simister with the borrowed Silver Spur and his Singer Chamois

PHOTOGRAPH: TONY BUCKINGHAM/PICTURE COURTESY OF JACK BARCLAY, BERKLEY SQUARE

magine. A weekend with a Rolls-Royce, and a brand-new one at that. A weekend in a Silver Spur, a car that costs almost exactly the same as our last house, which we sold two years ago for £139,942. A weekend of fantasy and social experi-

I drive many different cars in the course of writing road test reports, but I'm not blasé yet. However, I wouldn't really want to own a Silver Spur. A Ferrari 456GT is more my line, should the ownership opportunity arise. But I'm fairly confident it won't, so the only car that I own will remain my ancient but shiny Singer Chamois. But my Chamois, a sort of Hillman Imp Ghia, can still stand proud in the face of all this larger-than-life splendour, because it, too, has polished walnut veneer on its dashboard and doors, and lots of sparkly chrome bits. And it's just as perversely British, even if it is half the size and a third of the weight.

Besides, it's a chore inching the Rolls-Royce up my drive, which has high, stone-walled banks on either side, an awkward bend a third of the way up, and a tight turning area behind my back door. I've just brought the car back from Rolls-Royce's Crewe factory, where the latest changes to the range of hand-built motor cars - they're always 'motor cars' at Crewe - have been detailed to me. In essence, the deal is bodycolour bumpers, new interior colour schemes and a wider range of options. Radical updates are not Crewe's style; after all, the current Rolls-Royce shape has been around only since 1981. (New models are on the way, though.)

#### John Simister swaps his Imp-ish Singer for a 300-horsepower mobile mansion

Back at home, I'm soon caught up in a 17- tling out of the way in due deference. point turn, so that when I next go out, I can go forwards. To go backwards would be to risk wearing away too many layers of that lustrous paintwork.

It's not so much the vastness that's the problem, more the squareness of the car. It gets in the way of the walls. Still, the air-conditioning keeps me cool. There's even some condensation forming on the giant chrome air vents, whose output is varied between Force One and Force 10 by pulling or pushing knobs like chrome organ stops.

Finally, it is parked. A Rolls-Royce, in my drive. Has my house just expanded? Is that a stone portico I see, and a ha-ha in the distance? No, but the Spur undoubtedly belongs. For a couple of days, at least. That was Friday. Today is Saturday, and we're

driving down, wife, daughter and I, to Brighton to see some friends who are staying at the Grand Hotel. In the boot is a picnic hamper or two, folding chairs and a table, but there's less space in there than you'd expect in a car

The vastness has a magnificent effect on the motorways, though. The Motor Car towers above every other, like a whale in a sea of plankton, and just the sight of that plated prow is enough to have the plebeians scut-

Nowhere to park on the Grand forecourt? Such a snag is of no importance to the Rolls-Royce owner-driver, or to a non-owner-driver like me. You simply stop, and smile at the door-man. He then engages you in polite convers-ation (the matter of the Rolls-Royce's retail

price is, I'm sorry to say, broached early on) while showing pleasure at the beneficial effect the motor car is having on the hotel's ambience. It compensates for the scaffolding, which has not been showing the Grand in its grandest light. Passengers installed in the leather chairs,

with their toes buried in lambswool rugs, the Spur's "beverage holders" holding beverages, we waft off into the South Downs in search of a picnic venue. I daren't do more than waft, because while the Silver Spur is unexpectedly fast (it has a gently turbocharged 6,750cc V8 engine with 300bhp and a pulling power approaching that of one of Eddie Stobart\*s finest), it does not like to be rushed if there's a comer involved. If I get too carried away, my charges heave around and the sense of occasion gives way to a sense of sickness. So it's a gentle drive to a country-park-type place, where we park among rusting Cavaliers and

Do we feel just a tiny bit embarrassed? Yes, a Singer Chamois,

**NEXT WEEK IN** 

but we have to brazen it out. After all, I can't go running to the owners of the other cars and say, "Yes, I know it's a bit extravagant, but actually it isn't mine. You see, I write about cars, and I've borrowed this one, and ..."

Then a strange truth dawns. No one minds the Rolls-Royce. In fact, people like to see it, to admire it; there are no curled lips of envy. no mouthed obscenities. A Rolls-Royce is still seen by most folk as a beautiful and fine thing. To consider it naff is not a popular view outside the realms of champagne socialism.

I muse on this later, as I fill up the vast petrol tank and cause the cashier to telephone the credit card company because I've burst the card transaction limit. Is this a less jealous society than I thought? Or is it that I look so unlikely to be a Rolls-Royce owner that no one takes the idea seriously? A chap could get a severe crisis of confidence if he pursued this line of thought too vigorously.

Back to the Grand, goodbye to our friends and another conversation and financial appraisal from the doorman. Then it's the motorway homewards, cocooned in cool opulence while ordinary folk swelter in the summer heat, and finally another 17-point turn to within inches of the rose bushes. Well, I've rather enjoyed the Rolls-Royce experience, and so has Mrs Simister. Miss Simister (aged 10), however, is a good deal more blasé than her father. "I was a bit disappointed with the Rolls-Royce," says she. "It hasn't got enough gadgets." It has, however, got more gadgets than

### Thunder from lightening



auxhall has announced details of its new Astra, before its unveiling at next month's Frankfurt Show. Longer, roomier, safer and more fuel-frugal than the model it replaces, it will also be shown at the London Motor Show in October, before sales start next spring.

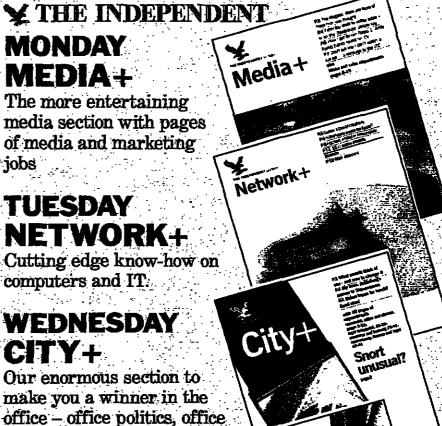
best fuel figures in its class: Vauxhall claims up to 10 per cent better than the current model. There are six four-The new hatchback, to be cylinder petrol engines in the built in Britain, will boast the

range, and two turbodiesels. A longer body gives more cabin space, but the use of more aluminium andmagnesium alloy helps reduce the car's total mass, thereby improving fuel economy. The new model gets revised suspension, to try to give the car some

bumpy-road poise. Safety is also improved: the optional anti-lock brakes are more powerful, the air-bags are full size (rather than the less effective "Euro" bags) and there are three, threepoint seatbelts in the rear.

Vectra-like collapsible pedals which cut down foot and leg injuries in accidents - and a totally zinc galvanised body are other Astra features.

Prices will be announced next spring. You can expect a modest rise on today's prices of just over £11,000.



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# Traps behind the door

#### Penny Jackson on hazards facing students

ever there was an area awash with prejudice, this is it.

Of course, there are students who default on rent and leave properties in an appalling condition. Equally, there are unscrupulous landlords who provide substandard accommodation. Students are not the only ones to suffer. They are, though, less likely than many others to know the ropes. Few find their first encounter with the rental market anything but bruising. Sorrel Moseley-Williams is taking a year out from her Spanish studies to be communications officer for University College London union, and is looking for somewhere to rent on the open market for the first time.

"I went to see one house that looked perfect. It would have cost the four of us sharing £80 a week. It had just been done up and was very secure and close to the col-lege. I rang the landlord 10 minutes after seeing it to say we wanted it. He agreed. But when I called a second time to confirm that we could provide all the references, he said it had gone. I was gutted."

ention the word "student" to some landlords and they throw up their hands in horror. Ask a student and one of the four who will be sharing, is a fairly old hand. This last academic year he was one of seven renting a house in Clerkenwell, each person paying 178 a week slightly each person pa £78 a week, slightly above the average London rent of £60 to £65. "The position was wonderful, but the house was sparcely furnished. We used our blankets to cover

The litany continues: damp carpets, collapsing beds and mice. "The house was pretty cheap," Mr Anderson continues, "so we didn't expect a lot of the landlords. I was ill and got behind with the rent and it was all very amicable. They only charged its \$75 each for cleaning the house at the us £25 each for cleaning the house at the end of the year and our electricity and gas was included in the rent. We kept the heating on all the time so I can't imagine they made a penny out of us."

While Ed Anderson's landlord was more relaxed than most, he did, as is common, require each student to become a party to the lease. The usual one month rent in advance and one month deposit were also required. The most common complaint among studentsis non-returned deposits. Unbonded landlords are reckoned to be holding £1bn in tenants' deposits. Students, as landlords well know, are less likely to



pursue the issue since most eventually leave Manchester and Leeds have student areas, unlike London with its spread of colleges. their university towns. Pip Backstrom of This makes the focus of their search easthe University of London Accommodation Office says that all students should ier, but puts enormous pressure on those bring contracts to be checked before sign- areas. Yet as they step into the turbulent ing. They can be ripped off mercilessly. property market students should note that Landlords may argue that the damages deposit was in fact a holding deposit and some would give anything for a few landlord troubles. As Pip Backstrom says: that's the last the student will see of it." "Three years on campus somewhere like Elsewhere, university cities such as Keele is enough to drive you mad."

### Three to view

#### Holiday homes

Harbour Lodge on Lough Sheelin, Co Cavan could scarcely sit in a more idyllic spot. The two-storey house, built 10 years ago, is a moment's walk from a lake famous for brown trout. The five-bedroom, two-bathroom house has wooden floors, fitted limed oak units in the 19ft kitchen, and verandas leading from sitting-room and main bedroom. Agents Jackson-Stops and Davitt & Davitt are quoting £170,000 (00 353 1 6771177).

The village of Gerani in Crete is on a river, is five minutes' walk to the beach and has supermarkets, tavernas and hotels grouped together, with the residential area a peaceful 1km away. This old, renovated two-storey house has a mature garden and two roof terraces. The ground floor has a studio and a separate entrance. The house sits in a 1,000 sq m plot. £72,000 through Crete Property Consultants (0171 328 1829).

And now for something a little more ambitious: Bagatelle, 3 km from Cannes. The estate has three villas, staff quarters, four swimming pools and four acres of gardens. The main, five-storey villa includes five reception rooms, hairdressing salon, dance floor and indoor pool. Another villa boasts a Moroccan-style dining room; the third, a Jacuzzi and sauna. All yours for £19.2m through Knight Frank (0171 629 8171).

Rosalind Russe







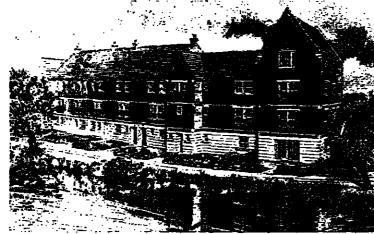
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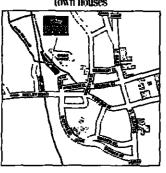
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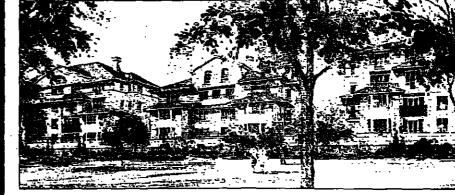
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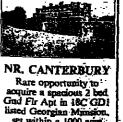
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## Private investors stay at home

ondon may be the world's
"It" City once again, but it is
not a pleasant place to be just now. Uncharacteristically high humidity, coupled with soaring temperatures, has meant that traders from Hong Kong and New York should feel quite at home walking the streets of EC3. Jeans and shirtsleeves feel more appropriate than bowler hats and olled umbrellas.

The stock market has a heavy ummer feel about it too. The love affair with 5,000 continues and even gyrations on Wall Street have failed to upset the enthusiasm of investors in the Square Mile. Perhaps traders find their airconditioned offices more

comfortable than home. By and large the interim results season has done the market no

If not a universally rosy picture, UK Plc has really not been doing

The ravages of high sterling have not impacted quite as much as many feared, while the financial sector has gone a long way to justifying the considerable outperformance delivered so far this year.

Still, I am glad not to have

BICC in my portfolios. It is well to remember the old adage that the stock market is a market of stocks. The index is an average and there is no guaranteed



The UK stock market is No 3 in the world, punching way above its weight if you look at the size of the economy

such thing as an average client.

management should be that you

deliver an individual solution to

becoming more of an issue with

on an active basis to be able to

demonstrate that they add value.

The benchmarks themselves

investors, it is becoming increasingly important for those who are seeking to manage money

Still, with performance

Indeed, the whole point about

private client investment

meet an individual's

circumstances.

method of picking the top stockbrokers to demonstrate performers. whether or not they were The hot weather and the holiday delivering performance that was

season provide a good opportunity comparable to their peers.
Very laudable, but not everyone to reflect upon the overseas content of portfolios. agrees with the methodology. The problem is that there is no

Holidaymakers in Thailand are enjoying excellent value in terms of what their money will buy while investors in this golden kingdom are having a torrid time. But do Mr & Mrs Average

Investor actually put money in Thailand? Or anywhere else overseas for that matter?

If the APCIMS (Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers) benchmarks are to be believed, These benchmarks were

launched earlier this year accompanied by, if not a fanfare. certainly a loud blast on a horn. of measurement that would

allow private client

were compiled after consulting with APCIMS members who The aim was to provide a form manage many billions of pounds of private investors' money.

According to them, 30 per cent

This is a lot. Rather more than our pension fund managers

believe appropriate, for example.
For them just 15 per cent will be invested overseas, although there are the constraints that actuaries

of a portfolio invested for growth on behalf of a private investor is

likely to be committed to overseas

delight in applying.

Asset/liability mismatching can
be costly – as banks have found out to their cost in the past. So investing in sterling securities for UK pensioners makes sense.

The benchmarks do not go as far as breaking down this 30 per cent into geographic areas, but if you treat the various markets in terms of size, you arrive at a potential asset allocation which I suspect few private investors

The Morgan Stanley Capital International Index, still the standard benchmark for measuring equity market performance, shows that, excluding the UK, around 50 per cent of world markets by value are represented by the North American stock markets.

Japan now accounts for just 16 per cent. It is sobering to remember that not so very many years ago Japan was vying with the US as the largest stock market in the world.

Europe, ex the UK, would account for 20 per cent of this universe. Add the UK to that and you are approaching 30 per cent of the whole, so you can see what an important stock market the UK is - number three in the world. punching way above its weight if you look at the size of our

economy.

Of the racier markets, the Pacific Rim accounts for around 8 per cent and Emerging Markets some 5.5 per cent.

Translate that into how you might invest a private client portfolio and you would probably have just 1.5 per cent in emerging markets, around one tenth of that allocated to the US.

Looking at our own clients suggests that the average private investor (whoever he or she may be) does not invest this way at all. First of all, nothing like 30 per cent of portfolios appear to be invested abroad on average.

Then, when you look at where the money directed to foreign parts travels, the US does not seem anything like as popular as its size would suggest.

The Far East, on the other

hand, has always received a great deal of attention from British investors. It seems the public are quite as

capable of making wrong decisions as the professionals. Perhaps we might look at the best choices for investing overseas.

But that can wait until the weather Save & Prosper is to launch an open-ended investment

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rates paid on its sterling current accounts and high-

interest savings accounts. On

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and deposit at least £300.

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increasing the cost of its

fixed-rate mortgages. Two-

year fixed rates rise to 7.19

per cent, while four-year

fixed rates will increase to

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Alliance & Leicester is

company, a new type of fund available in the UK. The fund will specialise in Eastern European investments and will be managed by Fleming, S&P's parent company. Call 0800

Portman Channel Islands. the building society's offshore arm, is launching a one-year fixed-interest bond paying 7.25 per cent gross on deposits of as little as £500. Call 01481 822747 or access the society through its

Internet site on http://www.

portmanci.com

Fidelity will keep its Tonbridge office open until midnight on Sunday 17 August to accept holders of Woolwich shares who want to PEP their holdings for free. The company will accept shares from people who have yet to receive certificates from Woolwich, as long as they are certified as free. The address is Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road. Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9DZ. Call 01732

Bank of Scotland's direct banking arm is linking a chequebook to its highestrate deposit account. Customers will receive 24hour banking and immediate access to their funds. Interest paid is 5 per cent gross on deposits up to £4,999 and 6.5 per cent gross thereafter.

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### Basic ways to ban the bomb

Rachel Fixsen on where ethical investors can put their money

f you don't like bombs, chances are you don't particularly want to help anyone buy the materials to make one. But you could end up doing the same thing indirectly if you keep your money with a bank which lends money to arms manufacturers. to your day-to-day banking and savings is no simple matter. It is straightforward enough to put long-

term savings into an ethical or green investment fund, as there are various funds on offer which are run along these lines. These funds have their own set ethical or environmental criteria, and any

shares they hold must meet these guidelines. But moral judgements are hard to make when it comes to banks which, by their nature as lenders, have their fingers in many pies. Managers of ethical funds often avoid the financial sector because corporate lending is largely undisclosed and therefore a murky area.

Michael New, senior consultant at independent financial advisers Barchester Green, which specialises in green/ethical investments, says the opportunities are limited for clients who ask where they can save their money ethically. "It is a problem. Almost always the answer is you can't," he says.

There is a great need for an ethical building society on the high street," he says. But there's little chance of one springing up any-

The Co-op Bank provides a range of banking services and adheres to a strict ethical policy. Among other things, it pledges not to invest in or supply financial services to any oppressive regime and says it will not lend to tobacco product manufacturers.

Its rates of interest are comparatively good. pays 5 per cent a year on a balance of £1,000, itable donation, says Philip Chapman, partwith higher rates tiered from £5,000, accordner at IFA firm Holden Mechan, which speing to financial data provider MoneyFacts.

Triodos Bank, which used to be called Mercury Provident before it was taken over by a Dutch bank, offers various savings accounts. It says all loans it makes with savers' money go to projects which benefit the community and environment. One of its partner organisations in South Africa lent money to help a Soweto pre-school buy land and build classrooms. Affordable pre-schools increase family income by letting mothers work, Triodos says.

Triodos' Social Investor account pays 3.25 per cent annual interest with a minimum balance of £500 and you have to give 33 days' notice to withdraw your money. The bank offers two Tessas. Its Top Tessa pays 7 per cent interest, whereas the Target Tessa pays only 3.5 per cent, but lets you choose which projects or

sectors your money will be lent to. Another option is West Yorkshire-based Ecology Building Society. It will only lend to people buying properties which have an ecological payback - for example organic smallholdings or the renovation of derelict houses which would otherwise be abandoned.

You have to be a member of a green organisation such as Greenpeace before you can open one of its savings accounts. All accounts are postal accounts, and you can choose from the Eco-Instant account, which pays 3.5 per cent gross, and a Tessa, which pays 6 per cent and stipulates a £100 minimum balance.

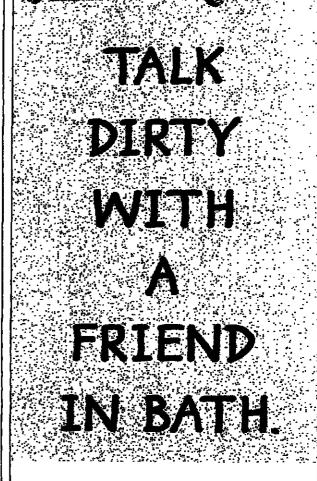
For philanthropic savers willing to accept a rate of interest even lower than inflation, there is Newcastle-based Shared Interest, which supports the fair trade market. It lends money to help Third World producers with their costs until enough consumer sales come in. "We have some clients who put £1,000 into this, but Co-op's Save Direct instant savings account this is money they really are making as a char-

cialises in ethical and green investment. If you are looking for a mainstream institution, from an ethical and green point of view, building societies are better than banks. Mr Chapman says he might recommend Bradford & Bingley to a client with ethical concerns looking for a building society. The law states that the vast majority of building society lending has to be housing-related, and the rest has to have the backing of members. However, the wave of societies converting to banks has complicated the picture.

Karen Eldridge of the Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRS) says those building societies which have only recently converted to banks are acceptable for savers not opposed to conversion, as they are still predominantly involved in housing. But keep your eyes open for any changes. "Of the big four banks, it's generally accepted among ethical funds that NatWest is better," she says.

According to a report last year in specialist publication Ethical Consumer, Nat West scored as highly as the Co-op Bank when judged on environmental criteria.

Co-operative Bank, 0345 252000; Ecology Building Society, 0345 697758; Triodos Bank. 0500 008720: Shared Interest, 0345 023008; Barchester Green Investment, 01722 331241. Holden Meehan, 0117 9252874, publishes a free independent guide to ethical and green investment funds.



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Day in the park: Model yacht racing

was a

serious business earlier this

century

PHOTO, HI LION GETTY

Nic Cicuti

t was possibly the world's worst-kept it must clearly "own" its secret. The takeover announced this week of that members of his Birmingham Midshires by Royal Bank of Scotland, which will earn its 1 million-odd members are planning to sell them. Hold on, I hear you £600m in cash and shares, had been widely forecast by just about everyone. So widely expected was it

that Midshires managed to add almost 300,000 new members within the space of a few months. Michael Jackson, the society's chief executive, said he did not like the term "carpetbagger" to describe these new clients. He should have told his press office, which has described them as such since the

beginning of the year. But maybe he has a point. All these people may have been joining a relatively ordinary Wolverhampton-based society purely for the pleasure of sinking at least £2,500 into one of its less-than-scintillating

members' accounts. These people will be in the same queue as loyal Birmingham Midshires members when Royal Bank of Scotland hands out cash and shares next year worth £600 each, the price of taking over the

Mr Jackson argues there will be no dilution of any entitlement for older members because the high price he negotiated for the society was partly due to this sudden influx of clients.

The price rose because the members will be part of RBS and Midshires "client bank", a gigantic herd waiting passively to have new financial products "cross-sold" to them by their owners.

Of course, if RBS is prepared to pay for them,

Once you have the free cash or shares, dump Birmingham Midshires

clients. This ownership coincides with another discovery by Mr Jackson society are clamouring for the financial products he and his chums at RBS

asking: surely the free shares and cash will outweigh this crass commercialism? Well, take a Birmingham Midshires borrower, repaying a £50,000 home loan at the society's variable rate.

Over the past 12 months, the borrower would have repaid about £250 more than someone with the same loan at Nationwide. Nationwide also sells products. including pensions, that are among the most competitive around.

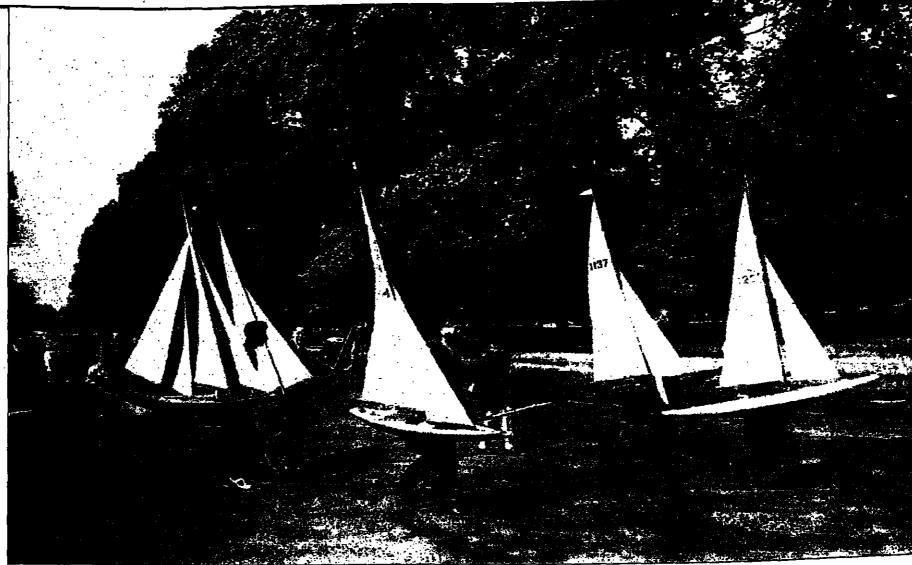
Arguing that Birmingham Midshires has elevated "good service" in place of competitive pricing will cut no ice in its Black Country heartland.

As with the other converting societies, my advice is the same. Once you have the cash or shares, become the sheep that roared, dump Midshires, and move your account elsewhere.

From next month, we will start running our popular free financial makeover series once more, curtailed for lack of space over the summer. To receive free advice worth hundreds of pounds from one of the UK's top financial advisers, write to: Nic Cicutti, Free Financial Makeover, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL. You must be prepared for

your name and picture to

appear in the paper.



The old ladies of Kensington

beaten-up Thirties model racing yacht sold for a whopping £690 at one of Phillips' down-market furniture sales in Bayswater in June. The sails and tangled rigging had come adrift and the mast refused to stand upright. The 47in-long plank-built vessel had been estimated at £200-£400.

With an eye on the rising decorative value of "pond yachts", as auctioneers call them, one vendor (probably not a model yacht connoisseur) is offering in Christie's South Kensington's November sale one half of a model yacht hull that he has meticulously sawn from stem to stem and mounted on a block, in imitation of shipbuilders' half block shipyard models.

Although he got it wrong – the 54in-long hull, dated 1960, will probably fetch £200-£300, less than half the £700-£900 it might be worth intact his instinct was right. I predict that pre-Sixties model racing yachts, whose prices scarcely dipped during the recession and are now nudging pre-recession levels, are about to bump the Santa Marias and Cutty Sarks out of their berths in the bay windows of fashionable Nineties folk who find nostalgia in the sea and ships.

The antique market does not yet appreciate model racing yachts. Instead, this increasingly buoyant market is being swelled by fogeyish private buyers approaching middle age who want of them a silver cup worth up to £20,000.

John Windsor returns to the days of pond-yacht racing.

to sport their raffish Panama hats and navy-blue blazers at the yachting lake, as well as showing off their pretty boats at home.

At the turn of the century, model yacht racing was a serious business. The aristocracy. together with the neo-gentry - architects, designers - would race their yachts in pairs across the round pond in Kensington Gardens. Crusty old peers, too portly to run round the pond to turn their yachts, would appoint a coachman as mate, encouraging him with salty invective as he sprinted to the far side, wooden turning pole in hand. "Run, you bugger!"

Their language was more subdued when 500-600 crowded round the pond for big competitions organised by the Model Yacht Sailing Association (founded 1876) – there would be men in topport and ledies in floring drawn 70-100. pers and ladies in flowing dresses. Today, a mere 35 members (they never did elect a coachman) compete for the association's 18 trophies, one

Until you talk to the enthusiasts and it dawns upon you why boats are referred to as "she". There is a connoisseurship in assessing the "beat" (shape) of a hull that borders on prurience.

Charles Miller of Christie's South Kensington.

enthusing over a gaff rigged pond yacht of 1935 with mahogany planked hull and self-steering gear that had fetched £1,495 (estimate £1,000-£1,200) in his spring sale, says: "Worth every penny: it had the most beautifully advacedus feminine-looking hull – a fine pointed bow and well gathered up towards the stern. Smooth clear lines such as those just cut through the water."

I encountered the same practical aesthetic at Phillips, where Bill Rose told me: "What looks right is right." The true connoisseur, it seems, sees through the eye of nature. "Look for soft curves," he advised, resorting to the nautical voluptuosity, "not hard angles, because nature doesn't have hard angles". He sold for a bargain £440 at Phillips' rivercraft sale at Henley in July a splendid 47m-long late 19th century pond yacht with solid hull and a powerful spoon bow, though without sails. "A lovely hull: it would cut through the water without any bubbles."

At auction you can pay anything from £143, the price at Phillips, Henley in July, for an ugly modern 81in-long giant made from GRP (a glass.

Not the sexiest of pursuits, you might think resin and plastic compound) with hefty lead-weighted keel, to around £4,000 for a shapely old lady with planked hull and a distinguished racing record.

The model yacht restorer Richard Howlett warns that modern racing yachts, the sort of lightweight, anorexic-looking models that cost up to £3,500, can decline in value by a quarter each year as the class develops increasingly sophisticated gear. Strictly for trophy-hunters.

Suppose you choose not to compete at auction and chance your eye instead on that sleek but dusty model yacht languishing in your local junk shop. It could be, say, a pretty-looking early Marblehead, biggest of the four main racing classes. You might pay £40 for it, even £400. Mr. Howlett's research and restoration might cost £200-£500. Then, like so many of Mr. Howlett's customers, you will ask him: "What's it worth now?" He might say: "£1,000-£1,500 at auction." You will then appear thoughtful and say: "Of course, I'd never dream of selling it."

Richard Howlett, Vintage Yacht Group and Model Yacht Sailing Association, 0171-480 5288, Auctioneers that sell model racing vachts: Phillips. 0171-629 6602; Christie's South Kensington, 0171-581 7611; Sotheby's, 0171-493 8080; Bonhams. 0171-393 3900.

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Thought for the day



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ND IF YOUR MIND clamps shut at the mere mention of the word up your lifetime earnings - past and future - you will see that you will almost certainly earn a fortune in your lifetime. ft could add up to a million pounds - or

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should entrust your money to

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others manage your money is that you'll let them help themselves to a chunk of it through their fees. IN FACT the widely-accepted Random Walk theory says that you will beat the pros at picking shares by simply blindfolding yourself and sticking a pin in

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Firstly, most financial advisors aren't independent. They're not even allowed to call themselves that. That's because they're employed by the big financial fund managers to sell their products, and their products alone. They're really just So what about those who are allowed

to call themselves independent financial advisers? Consider this fact: most IPA's earn their living from commission from the products they sell. Yet some of the best investments are run by firms which vay no commission. How likely do you think it is they'll be on your IFA's shortlist of recommended investments if there's a commission-naying firm offering a remotely similar product?

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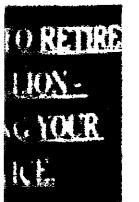
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A Section



he summer has brought plenty of rain and even more carpetbagging fever. This is a condition brought on by exposure to the magic words "demutualisation" and "windfall cash

Symptoms are recognisable as an urge to become a member of a building society before it converts to a bank. This week Birmingham Midshires members heard their society was to be taken over by Royal Bank of Scotland. The £600m-plus price tag equals about £600 for each of Midshires' 1.1 million policyholders, including about 300,000 speculators who joined the society in recent months for just this reason.

Many building societies hoping to keep out carpetbaggers have either pulled down the shutters or set high cash minimums of £2,500 or more to open an account that confers membership rights.

One way to ensure a share in any payout, while earning a decent return on your investment, is to buy Permanent Interest Bearing Shares (Pibs) issued by many building societies

as a means of raising money. Ownership of Pibs confers member status. Pibs pay a fixed income and their prices have been going up. In part, this has been a response to the potential for free shares from future demutualisations. So how do they work, and are they a surefire route to windfall

Building societies are prevented by law from borrowing in the way that banks can - from other banks.

This is because mutual status limits the liabilities that a society can enter into when borrowing and obliges it to protect members who have deposit accounts or mortgage loans. Pibs offer a convenient way for societies to get round the problem.

For example, Bradford & Bingley made one issue to raise £60m, with a coupon rate" of 13 per cent. This means that the society raised £60m by offering to pay a yield of 13 per cent gross, split between two annual pay

With basic-rate tax deducted at source, the yield was cut to 9.75 per cent. Once issued, Pibs can be bought

You don't have to sacrifice good returns for a chance of free shares. writes lain Morse

and sold like any other share. The price of Bradford & Bingley Pibs has gone up reducing the current gross yield to around 7.99 per cent, which comes down to 6.07 per cent net for a basicrate taxpayer.

The price of Pibs has generally tended to rise, reflecting the relatively high interest rates prevailing when most of them were issued five to six years

As our table shows, gross returns are now between 7.6 and 7.99 per cent for all issues. Are they a good bargain? Justin Urquart-Stewart, a director at

Barclays Stockbrokers, warns: "The market for Pibs is linked to interest rates. Speculation [over conversion to bank status] may be driving their prices up, but if the wave of demutalisation slows down and interest rates rise, prices could suffer.

"Remember, when you buy Pibs you are really buying a stream of future income. If the price of Pibs falls, you may not get back the purchase price."

Of course, were the price of Pibs to fall, the income receivable from the shares would go up correspondingly. Pibs are not subject to capital gains tax, but neither can they be placed in a

PEP, the wrapper used to protect many investments from tax. Income is not guaranteed, while payments can be suspended if the society decides that making them puts its solvency at risk. If the society is wound up then owners of Pibs come

depositors and other creditors. Mr Urquart-Stewart concedes: "This is unlikely. The investment is low risk." He adds, however: "These are a dying breed of investment, never much traded, or very popular, and rather left out in the cold by corporate-bond

last on the list to be repaid, after

PEPs. They represent another way into windfalls, but a lot depends on the pace of future demutualisation."

Not everyone agrees with this assessment. Last year JP Cairngorm Asset Management, a small Scottish fund management company, launched a Building Society Investment Trust to buy into Pibs and related bank bonds.

Chairman Ken Murray points out: "It's a matter of when you buy and how you do it. The trust has holdings in all society Pibs. We therefore manage a portfolio. This should reduce risk for he investor.

The Cairngorm trust is split into 10 subsidiary trusts, a structure designed to maximise the return from windfalls. Shares are currently trading at around £9.40 for 10, with an estimated net asset value of between 113 and 115 pence per share, based on the current market for all stocks held, with a net yield of 4 per cent. Mr Murray's strategic view is clear: "We expect demutualisation to continue as a trend."

Of course, predicting when a particular conversion will take place is impossible and societies are keen to dispel speculation. Buying Pibs makes the purchaser a member of the society just like an account holder or borrower. This means that if the society demutualises, converting to bank status,

all members may be due to participate in any windfall of shares or cash. Most societies issuing Pibs give immediate membership to Pibs owners. Some may impose a minimum period on ownership as they do with account holders. JP Cairngorm's trust hopes to

benefit from this but Mr Murray accepts that windfalls are not guaranteed. The Building Society Act only makes provision for part of the society's funds or equivalent shares to be distributed among members, subject to rules of eligibility.

When demutualising, societies can therefore choose to distribute cash or shares. The law prevents cash windfalls to members of less than two years.

Neither are there any statutory rules on the qualifying period of membership for share windfalls. Although not likely, a society could backdate this to the date of first press speculation on demutualisation. Moreover, the price

of investing in Pibs can be at least as high as simply opening a speculators' account with a society.

In the case of Bradford & Bingley, minimum subscription is £10,000, although for Britannia, Coventry and Skipton - all societies in the frame over possible conversion - minimum levels start at £1.000.

Pibs is the future income they will pay. Those suffering windfall fever should take an aspirin and find advice from a stockbroker.

Barclays Stockbrokers, which specialises in Pibs, can be contacted on 0345 777

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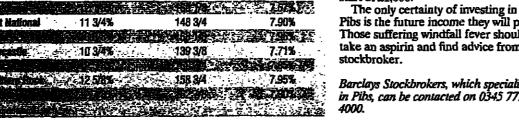
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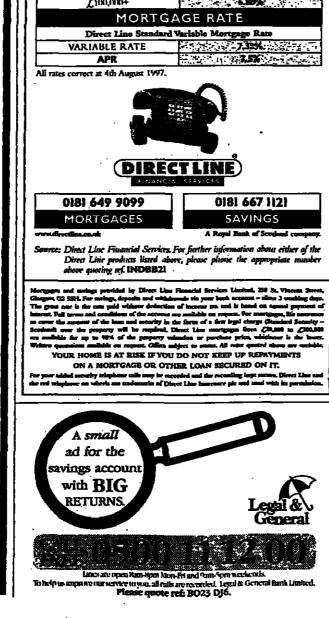
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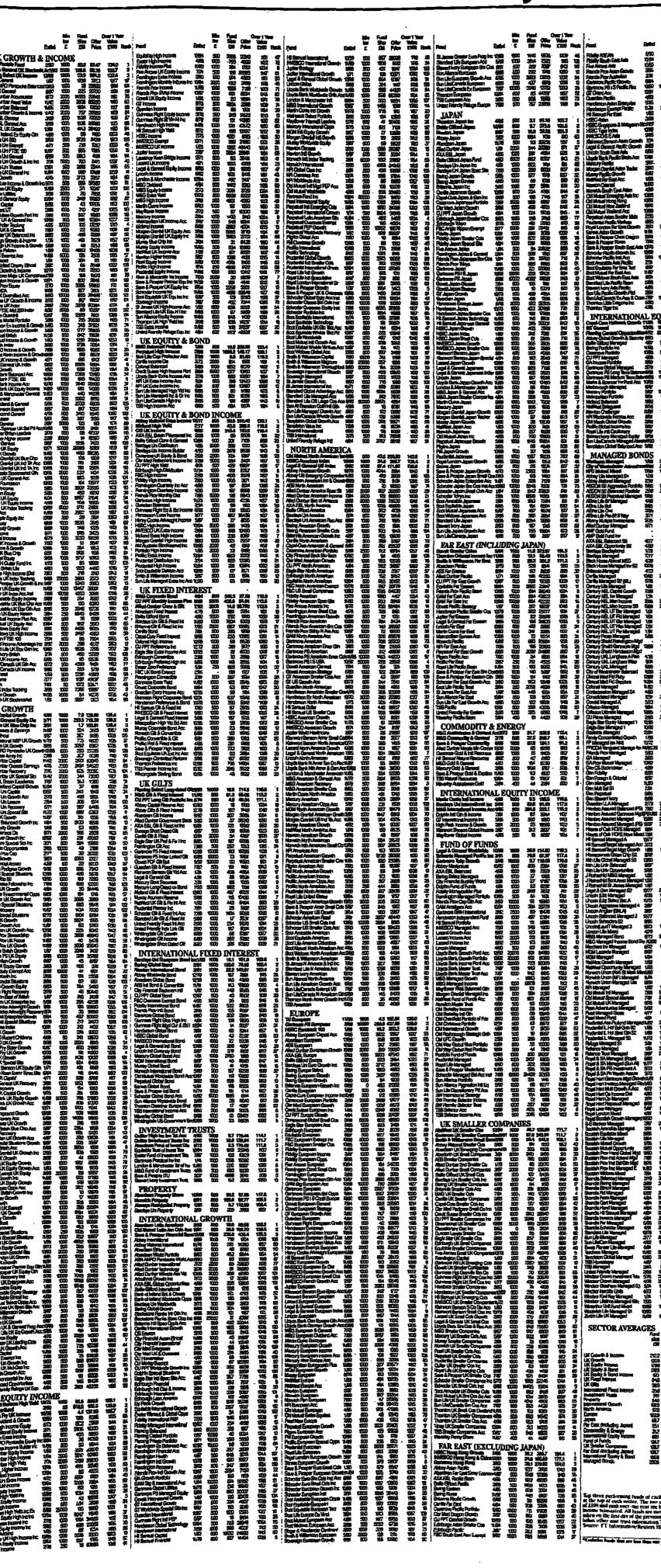
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# Go mad and live a little

Nic Cicutti discusses the pains and pleasures of taking risks

Risk. This is a word which appears again and again in all discussions about investment, a word which encapsulates the very essence of any fund management strategy or financial product design.

Generally, the degree of risk you are prepared to accept for your money will determine the return you receive from it. But here is a conundrum: who defines what is risky and what is not?

what is risky and what is iter.
Clearly, what you or I
accept is a hazardous – even
foolhardy – financial strategy
will be seen by another
person as the quintessence
of safe-as-hands money
management.

management.

It is virtually impossible to determine for everyone and evermore what is or is not an acceptable level of risk. But we can begin to discuss a few of the principles that should govern our attitude to this subject. Thereafter, we can examine some of the most common products and place them in some kind of order according to the risk they subject to cash placed with them.

The first point to understand is that theoretically, there is no investment which is 100 per cent free of risk. Moreover, the word itself is elastic and can have different meanings. For example, one

For example, one understanding of risk is where even a nice, seemingly safe building society could go belly-up, leaving you to claim compensation worth just 90 per cent of your deposit, up to a £20,000 maximum. Another understanding of risk is that the interest paid on your deposit is less than inflation at that point in time. The second point is that

The second point in time.

The second point is that our willingness to accept financial risk can change according to many circumstances, including age, for instance. Younger investors can afford to take a more long-term view if equity prices fall. Older investors, particularly those close to retirement, need to protect their capital.

Third, although the safest

Third, although the safest form of investment may still be that mythical building society account, better performance has tended to come from equities.

That is not to say that

share prices move up in an uninterrupted curve.
Volatility, as seen by yesterday's fall in the FTSE 100 share index, will always remain with us. The key then is how to average out the cost of investing.

Take a fund in which you invested to the cost of investing.

Take a fund in which you invest £1,000 every year for 10 years. If the value of the fund increases by a set amount every year, you will show a certain return. By comparison, if you invested in a far more volatile fund, which experiences a range of ups and downs, you might feel you were likely to be investing in a loser.

Actually, that is not necessarily certain. The

necessarily certain. The £1,000 you invest in "bad"

years will buy you more shares, units or whatever the measure of investment is. In an upturn, those "cheap" units will grow faster in relative terms and, because you have more of them, your gains will be greater.

A fourth point to consider is the effect that interest rate movements can have on the value of your capital.

Say you buy a fixed-

Say you buy a fixedinterest security, such as a
corporate bond. The bond
cost £100 and has an income
of £10, or 10 per cent of the
sum invested. If interest
rates were to fall to 8 per
cent, the value of the
investment grows. This is
because the corporate bond's
income, which may
previously have been
unexceptional, suddenly
becomes more attractive.
More people will want to buy
it, pushing prices up.
If the income of £10 is

If the income of £10 is deemed to be equal to the new interest rate of 8 per cent, the bond's price may have to rise to £125. This seesaw also implies risk in the market. If you invest at the wrong time, a rise in interest rates can have the opposite effect on the value of your corporate bond.

Either way, what also becomes clear is that, unless interest rate movements begin to gyrate madly, the level of risk is smaller with fixed-interest securities than with straightforward equity investments.

Which takes us to the next

Which takes us to the next point about understanding risk. As our illustration at the bottom of this story shows, there are different levels of risk depending on the type of financial product one is considering.

This table is useful if you

This table is useful if you speak to an independent financial adviser who will want to recommend a product to you. But the important point to remember is that risk is not the only basis for investing. The suitability of a product is as important as the issue of whether capital erosion may take place.

One key aspect of any

One key aspect of any understanding of risk is that investments do not all present the same risks at the same time. While UK share prices have rocketed ahead in the past 18 months, Japanese equities have languished.

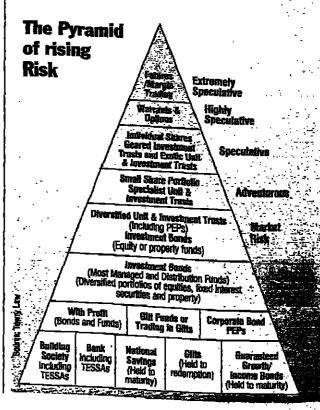
Investing in just one stock

Investing in just one stock market might involve greater risks than necessary for little reward.

The final part of

The final part of understanding risk is that it is something to savour and even enjoy in moderation. If you can afford it, take risks with some of your money, as long as you are prepared to lose the lot.

Towrv Law, a firm of independent financial advisers, is offering copies of its "Principles of Investing" to readers of The Independent. Write to Towry Law, Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berks, SL1 3PB or call 0345 889933.



مكذا من الملصل

that familiar way that will be

### inside back

### TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ THE EYE TODAY

always associated in my mind with childhood holidays. Scots, on the whole, go on holiday in Scotland, and exiled Scots go on holiday in Scotland, too. While the rest of Britain whines about the hear, the north east of Scotland is cloaked in a haar, and conversation revolves around whether a wind will come and blow it away. This is of particular interest at the moment because the grouse season started on Tuesday and German businessmen don't like it when nature conspires to blur their sights. The cat hasn't left his chair in

Serena Mackesy

easy, you

know,

being a

techno-

queen in a

family who

practically

themselves

sight of a

computer

cross

at the

days. He occasionally moves in it, to avoid bedsores, but otherwise all is still. The dog occupies the other kitchen armchair, casting looks of pure tragedy at anyone foolish enough to pay heed. I spend my time wading through the grass under the beeches in search It's not of chanterelles, reading about 1930s dope fiends, and sorting out the Luddism

> It's not easy, you know, being a techno-queen in a family who practically cross themselves at the sight of a computer. Living in rural Aberdeenshire doesn't help: everyone around here seems to take pride in not understanding things electronic. I think there's an element of the class thing involved, a belief that microwaves and videos are the province of wideboys, like barbecues, swimming pools and fish-knives. But then, my folks have always been a bit slow on the uptake, prone to reading the

> instruction booklets on radios. Ten years ago, they won a colour television in a raffle. Nine years ago, I came across it, still in its box, lurking in an outhouse, while the ancient blackand-white juddered along, turning Panorama into myopia. I trotted indoors. "Why," I enquired, "aren't you using the colour telly?" "Oh, well, we can't use it. We've only got a black-and white aerial." A year

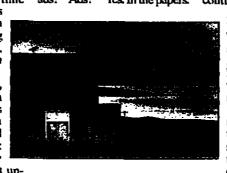
DAMIEN HURTS.... and his painfully creative struggle

ANYTHING NEW FOR I'VE BEEN I'VE BEEN PRODUCING I CALL IT 'ICE CUBE'.

MY COLLECTION, WORKING ON ICE SCULPTURES AND
DAMIEN? A CROSSOVER
COMBINING THEM WITH
WOULD TWENTY
THE MY CUBISM PEROD. GRAND RUY

he rhododendrons drip in instead of finding it hilarious, got English. Of course, to some very indignant. "Well," she said, "that shows how much you know. We spent £179 having our colour aeriel installed." I don't identify her to protect her from a queue of people trying to sell

her Tower Bridge or something.
On my first night home this visit, I remembered, at the last minute, that there was a film I wanted to tape. No luck. All channels presented nothing but snow: the video was no longer picking up a signal. "Oh. it's been like that for months," they said. "It just suddenly went like that."
On asking a couple of questions, I found that the strange phenomenon had coincided with the launch of Channel 5. "Didn't the retuners come?" Father frowned. "Retuners?" I explained the term. Eyebrows were raised. "Really? No one told us." "Didn't you see the ads?" "Ads?" "Yes. In the papers.



On the billboards. On the telly?" There was some thought, then the answer came. "Oh, well, we saw those, but we didn't want Channel 5, so we didn't pay any attention to them,"

I heard one of those little strangulated "aargh" noises issue from the back of my throat, sat down with the manual and retuned the vid, discovered that the telly was knackered anyway, sorted that out as well. The previous generation gathered round, cooing with amazement. "It's been the talk of all the dinner parties," said Patricia, "the fact that all our later, I was telling this story to weird X-Filey phenomenon, another family member who, caused either by UFOs or the in the first place.

extent the latter could be said to

be true. Meanwhile, the great saga of the telephone continues. Christmas brought a free trial of Call Minder, which caused kerfuffle because the letter telling them about it had been dumped as junk mail and a month's messages had piled up before they were discovered. This part of the BT sales drive, thankfully, is now over, but the enraged calls go on. People keep ringing up and asking if I got their message," says Patricia, who in point of fact is a great communicator. She's obsessed with the 1471 function now she's got her head round it, and should be a prime customer for these gadgets. "They get a woman's voice saying I know they're calling, but I've never had any of their messages. And another thing," she continues indignantly, "I keep

getting this annoying beenng noise when I'm talking." They have been given a tri-al of Call Waiting. And their friends, bless 'em, have been burbling over the top of it and assuming they're being recorded.

Maybe that's the function of technology, though: to give each generation a sense of superiority over their forebears. And my dada may have required

instructions to work a cashpoint, but at least he can post a letter without damaging himself in some way. Ducking under the dripping branches of a pine wood yesterday, I let out a fine Highland whoop, executed a somersault more perfect than anything I ever attained in gym class, and exploded my left ankle for the third time since December. The dog was delighted. The old man, who has, touch wood, passed the threescore and ten without so much as chipping a bone, lent me his walking stick to hop home, and now I'm sitting in videos broke down at the same front of a fire, full of Ibuprofen time." Seems that the entire and whisky, and wondering county has been convinced that which is better: knowing how they have been subject to some to work an invalid carriage or simply never having need of one

Neil Kerber

### The world's favourite language

t some point, presum-ably, we'll be able to stop feeling guilty about the British empire. After all, nobody gets especially het up about the Romans these days, and they actually went around crucifying people. But while our imperial past still needs justification - or mitigation, at any rate; justification probably isn't on the cards - a strong point in its favour is the vast body of literature in English that it produced.

No doubt some writers and readers in some parts of what was the empire feel, like R S Thomas, anglophone Weish poet, that they have been robbed of their own language and culture: English burns the tongue, but it is the only language they know. But the hegemony of English has several virtues. For one thing, it is a useful and ornamental language in its own right - the only one capable of sustaining an art-form as rigorously self-contained as the cryptic crossword. For another, its status as lineua franca of the largest empire the world has yet known means that writers and readers from opposite ends of the earth can



the week on radic

be introduced to one another without wortying about what's getting lost in the translation -Flann O'Brien and Salman Rushdie can have a common audience. And these writers have the advantage, as it seems to be, of writing in a language that is both their own and not their own: they are native speakers, but they have, perhaps, an awareness of the language's individual quirks and an ability to work against the grain that come harder to writ-

ers who are simply English. For confirmation of that last point, you can turn to the current Book at Bedtime (Radio 4, David Batchelor's annoyingly

Monday-Friday). Rushdie's Midnigh's Children, read by Roshan Seth: it's gripping, not so much because of the plot's twists and elaborately achieved moments of irony and significance, but because it never slips into well-worn grooves of speech, never falls for the idle cliché, but is constantly striving for precision. I'm not so sure you should turn to The Cruiskeen Lawn (Radio 4, Wednesday), which is based on a long-running humorous news-paper column by Flann O'Brien (real name Brian O'Nolan and most of the stuff here was written under the pen-name Myles na Gopaleen, but you know who we're talking about).

There were some enjoyable moments in here - a pleasingly extravagant description of the author's personal beauty, taken one sublime feature at a time - but much of it sounded weak or derivative. The only really exciting parts were extracts from O'Brien's novel At Swim-Two-Birds, which gave some idea of the baroque flights of which he was capable. Possibly the newspaper bits read better than they sound in

job, but A Date With... (C4,

Sun) feels like the kind of

thing he might have commis-

sioned. It uses the grammar of

the game show to deliver a

O'Brien was far better served by Fi Sci (Radio 4, Tuesday) -or, to give it its full title, Fi Sci - Fiction Science not Science Fiction, a choice that reflects badly on all parties concerned. The idea is that Steve Jones, the amazing performing geneticist, analyses the scientific content of famous novels. This week, he examined Mark Twain's views on heredity, as represented by Pudd nhead Wilson. Since the book was clearly designed largely as a contribution to the debate, this was no more than moderately interesting. But last week's, on O'Brien's The Third Policeman, was excellent, with Jones and several co-operative cosmologists and particle physicists contriving to find support in modern science for some of O'Brien's surreal inventions - light stretched into sound, men exchanging parti-cles with their bicycles, a sausage-shaped world in which multi-directional travel is merely an illusion. This was a fitting tribute to a strange and brilliant mind, and a reminder that the only empire nobody need ever apologise for is the empire of the imagination.

### Say it with 'quotation' marks

ost-modernism's latest grand project is the rehabilitation of Terry Wogan, who made his first tentative steps up the ladder of ironic self-reinvention by agreeing to share his pet hates on this week's Room 101 (BBC 2, Fri). Most of the things he claimed to fear and loathe were home bankers -EastEnders, Cantona - but Have I Got News For You was a more astutely media-literate bit of devil's advocacy. Being a BBC 2 stablemate of Room 101, its nomination looked to anyone not versed in the rules of irony to be a straight case of fratricide. Not a bit of it: this is precisely the kind of reflexivity, of allusive trickery, that makes people high up in BBC 2 do cartwheels in celebration of their own cultural slipperiness.

It wouldn't have needed explaining to Wogan that Have himself a star presenter. (Deayton also nominated the clever-clever BBC 2 logo, but then no one on broadcasting two occasions when he hap- enough.



Jasper Rees e week on televisio

pened to be a guest on the pro-

gramme but also when he told exactly the same joke. Ever get the feeling BBC 2 has gone potholing up its own grotto? If so, blame Michael Jackson, who is now at Channel 4 after a spell pretending to be a populist at BBC 1. The channel that looks most like his baby is still BBC2, with its single eyebrow permanently raised in I's presenter Angus Deayton is the wry fashion of the person job he's fit for is sending himbest mates with Room 101 who knows that someone else self up. Here his brief was to presenter Nick Hancock, nor in the room has farted but he's pretend to be offensive, to that when Deayton was on not going to make a big stink Room 101 he said he hated about it. There surely won't be contestants have to put up Radio 2, on which Wogan is long to wait before someone with when they're not on telegoes on Room 101 and tells vision. It was all just a thin line Hancock that the thing they away from his more usual hate most in the world is Room 101. In an ironic world of perworks harder at his irony.) It fect circularity the guest who gets worse. To illustrate Have does so would be Jackson him-I Got News For You, Hancock self. But ironically, unlike his chose clips not only from the namesake, he isn't famous

which disabled people fail to three contestants, neatly fanned out across the various disabilities - one blind, one lame, and one with a stam-mer. They had plainly been selected because of looks and confidence and the likelihood that they would embody an affirmative message. The irony of the show, presumably unintentional - although you can never tell these days - is that the programme's chief handicap came in the form of its able-bodied presenter Tony Slattery. Slattery has been in professional freefall for a couple of years now, and the only illustrate what the disabled speciality, which is to do away with the pretence.

One of the few irony-free zones on BBC 2 is Newsnight (BBC2, weekdays). On Monday there was an item on the doctoring of the Di 'n'

Jackson's influence hasn't Dodi pics. It's interesting to really been felt yet in his new note that the Princess of Wales is now unblinkingly referred to as "Di" on a programme that is thought to be a last bastion of seriousness. Piers Morgan, the editor of homily about the ways in The Mirror who published the doctored photographs, was get a fair deal. There were sufficiently persuaded of the programme's po-face to pull out of the interview two hours before transmission. It can only be a matter of time before, just as Have I Got News For You put a tub of lard in the place where the serial withdrawer Roy Hattersley should have been sitting. Newsnight uses similar tactics to announce the chickening out of its guests. In Morgan's case, a white feather in a cup of slime would have done

> Edinburgh Nights (BBC 2, Mon) has also succumbed to the ironic minesweepers defusing the pockets of seriousness dotted around the channel's schedule. Hitherto a capable arts programme, it now has the ubiquitous Mark Lamarr presenting what looks like late-night competition for Not The Jack Docherty Show (C5, weekdays). After a bongo band had done their worst, Lamarr assured us that "it's much better when the audience clap in time". Apparently said without irony.

Whatever happened

**Curty Whirty** 

Fashion victims first threw away their rags for the new chemical curls in August 1909, but perms took off in the Twenties and Thirties when the Clara Bow and Gene Harlow look was emulated. Then it was a lengthy process involving cardboard tubes, peroxide and having your head attached to a mini nuclear power station.

Kinky Gerlinky

in the late Seventies when Farrah Fawcett flick-ups gave way to tightly curled disco chic. Every professional footballer seemed to sport curls as a right of passage to Tramps nightclub.

Perms have also been the cause of some of the worst hairdressing disasters. If not used properly, the effect is rather like putting your barnet in a chip fryer, resulting in a The trend also signalled a revolution But perms really came into their own melted candy floss look, a burnt in the amount of hair care and styling

Moderate

Moderate

Moderate

scalp and, occasionally, permanent products available, promising to being demanded by 70 per cent of all the curty look will eventually filter baldness.

Curl up and Dye

In the Eighties, perms were the most popular hairstyle a girl could have: you could have anything from a demi-wave to a spiral or root lift. But perms had a tendency for the person's hair to look like straw or to be drowning under a weight of hair gel.

Europe and The World

make hair feel natural when in truth it had been stripped bare and bent into an unnatural state. Reaching a non poodle look meant hours upside down under the diffuser with an afro comb and lashings of hair spray. There was no such thing as wash and

Straight Talking Since the Nineties, straight hair has

go and God help you if it rained.

Cold front

Roodworks at Killingworth.

Rondworks.

West Yorks, MI 147. Major long-term roadworks until Sept 15.

North Yorks, A19 Thornaby-on-Tees

Out and about with AA Road-watch cal 0336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls

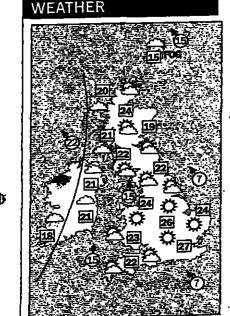
Full Moore August 18

Split Ends

But some top hairdressers are confident that perms are back, but not as we know them. The trend towards big romantic curls is making a comeback been "in" with the "Rachel" look on the cat walk and the belief is that

young women, and now the Geri down. Perms are now designed to Spice Girl streaks seem to be taking give volume to thinning roots. Modthe lead. Who has a perm now? Aer- em perms are safer and more natural obic instructors and insurance clerks ingredients are used, although it still and people who drive white jeeps. takes a couple of hours rolling the hair up into tiny curlers, sitting with cotton wool around your head and rinsing the smell of it out for days but. if you persevere, one day you could look like Ailsa from Home and Away.

Victoria Barrett



Aber Angi Ayr Belfa Biac Bour Brigi Card

The British Isles General Situation and Outlook:

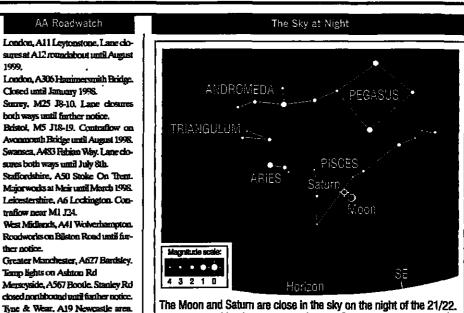
Most of England and Wales will have another mainly dry day with a good deal of sunshine once any early mist and low cloud have cleared, although an isolated shower is possible over the hills. It will become very warm inland, but the coasts will be cooler with onshore breezes and there may be some troublesome sea-fog in the south-west. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be warm with hazy sunshine, but western areas will turn

cloudy later with a threat of rain by evening. Tomorrow, western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and just isolated showers after any remaining overnight rain has cleared away. Elsewhere there will be more cloud than recently with a risk of showers and local thunder, but it will be quite hot in the south and east. Early next week most places will have plenty of warm sun-shine and just isolated showers, but more general cloud and light rain may reach western Scotland and Northern Ireland later.

8:29pm to 5:01am Moderate Good Good Good Good .8:31pm to 5:59am S England Wales C England N England Scottand 8:29pm to 5:55am .8:31pm to 5:53am 8:35pm to 5:52am 8:51pm to 5:52am 6:03am

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Frankfurt
Geneva
Gibraltar
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Jerusalem
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Lisbon
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Here their position is shown at 1.00 a.m. BST for that night.

in the dim and difficult constellation of Pisces, far outshining any of it stars. On the night of the 21st/22nd, the waning gibbous Moon, following its eastward track in the sky, skims past Saturn missing the planet by a whisker. The pair rise at about 9.45pm BST that evening though it will be around midnight before they are high enough above the east-southeast horizon to be easily visi-

aturn is presently located ble. Over the course of the rdght, the Moon gradually edges its way below Saturn, closing the gap until there is only half a degree between them at 3.45am. After that they pull apart again. This fine celestial alignment is a foretaste of the encounter to come in the early hours of 12 November, when the Moon will occult Saturn completely for about an hour.

Jacqueline Mitton

### TODAY'S TELEVISION



Peter Conchie recommends Everyman Sun 10.35pm BBC1

s you are by now no doubt aware, Elvis Aaron Presley died 20 years ago today. Each subsequent anniversary has had 20 years ago today. Each subsequent its own significance for legions of his lonesome fans. The first brought home the reality of loss for some, the 10th marked a cathartic rite-of-passage from lost hero to legend for others. But for Elvis, the number 20 carries a weightier tag altogether. being roughly his weight in stone when he died.

A repeated Arena "The Burger and the King" (Sat BBC2) celebrates Presley's obsession with saturated fat, which grew out of a impoverished Depression childhood, and was fuelled by his adult discovery of cheeseburgers and endless fried peanut-butterand-banana sandwiches. An unhealthy case of over-compensation for a youthful diet of fried squirrel and chicken feet. This is presumably not the Elvis that his devotees mourn each August. but the interviews with his cooks, room-service adviser and doctor

that gave him any pleasure. The fact that it took three undertakers to carry him away tells you just how much.

If all that seems to desecrate the sequinned shrine of memory, John Peel leads the sermon in the thoroughly entertaining "Elvis and the Presleytarians", an Everyman special (Sun BBC1), which examines the quasi-religious behaviour of his bereaved fans. Theologian Karen Armstrong describes the phenomena as "a fascinating example of the way a religious enthusiasm grows" explaining the deification of Elvis by his disciples as a function of their ritualistic behaviour, such as the "pilgrimage" to his Graceland home. But claiming that the Gospel is a myth, a mere foretelling of the rising of Elvis, may be as hard to swallow for conventional believers as a stick of celery was for the King. Presley impersonators (most of the later incarnation) are high

convince you that, in later life, food really was the only thing priests of a new religion, members of which claim the risen Elvis has been seen. But with all those lookalikes, how would you know you'd seen the right one?

An altogether stronger branch of burgeoning American faith features in the last of the impressive series of Planet Islam (Sun BBC2). The fastest growing religion in the US is attracting mostly, the programme suggests, disadvantaged African Americans - in some jails one in three immates have converted to Islam, Mike Tyson being a recent recruit - and may effect social change in much the same way as the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Islam rejects the melting pot and advocates the mixing bowl; an independent, self-sufficient identity is the aim, with black Muslims encouraged to set up businesses to staunch the haem-

orrhage of money from inner-city communities.

William Dalrymple (a cross between Clive Anderson, Jonathun Meades and a puppy) presents "Blood on the Tracks". Indian Partition as seen from the perspective of Labore railway station. Sikhs and Hindus fleeing to India clashed bloodily with Muslims arriving in Pakistan at the interchange and on trains across a genuinely divided nation. Dalrymple's elegant script clashes irritatingly with his Just William style of presentation, but that's a quibble; the unifying but ultimately divisive role of the railway

in Indian history is beautifully clear. In contrast, complete confusion is the usual state for Bridget Jones, as readers of her fictional, unattached-thirtysomething column in this paper will be aware. In Bookworm (Sun BBC1), the mad singleton's creator, Helen Fielding, gamely denies that she and her creation are one and the same. But when the author In a new series, Stories of the Raj (Sat C4), the hyperactive droots Jones-like over Colin Firth's Mr Darcy, you're not so sure.

### BBC<sub>1</sub>

7.00 Harry and the Hendersons (R)(S)(T) (7569974). 7.25 News, Weather (1) (2917448). 7.30 Baba (R) (4443351). 7.55 Albert the 5th Musketeer (R)(S)(T)

(4402784). 8.20 The Flintstones (R) (1463500).

8.20 The Frimstones (R) (146.3500).

8.45 Marvel Action Hour. Animation triple bill (R)(S) (244516).

9.45 Grange Hill (R)(S)(T) (742968).

10.15 Sweet Valley High (S) (5085239).

10.35 The O Zone (S) (3569697).

11.00 Sign The Adventures of Mile and Otis (Masanori Hata 1989 Jap). Pet adventure, narrated by Dudley

Moore (T) (9428806). 12.12 Weather (S) (4561429). 12.15 Grandstand. Introduced by Ray Stubbs (S) (4480500). 12.20 Football Focus (6944055), 1.00 News (7) (51297055), 1.05 Cricket Focus. A preview of the final Test between England and Australia (10554239). 1.30 Showjumping. The Speed Derby at Hickstead (98773968). 1.55 Racing from Newbury (88857055). 2.10 Showjumping from Hickstead (70127061). 2.25 Racing from Newbury, 2,30 Swettenham Stud S Hughes Stakes (70122516). 2.40 Golf: The Weetabix Women's British Open (1544974). 2.55 Racing from Newbury (3017245). 3.10 Golf (4782968). 4.40 Final Score

5.20 News, Weather (7) (9783790). 5.30 Local News, Weather (603177). 5.35 Cartoon (488429).

5.45 Ghost Dad (Sidney Poitier 1990 US). Bill Cosby plays an estranged father given a second chance with his children when he is killed and comes back as a ghost. With a title like this, you know not to expect too much (S)(T) (9804351). 7.10 Confessions. Simon Mayo meets a

man who lied about his age more than 50 years ago, in order to marry. Which makes you wonder how many whoppers were told to secure a commission for this lumbering load of old tosh (S)(T) (397528). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Bob

Monkhouse with no doubt the wrong six numbers, backed by music from Jai (S)(T) (249448). 8.10 Bugs (S)(T) (892351).

9.00 FIEM Next Door (Tony Bill 1994 US). Lecturer James Woods unwisely squabbles with his neighbour, Randy Quaid, who happens to be a butcher (S)(T) (4158).

10.30 News, Sport, Weather (T) (303968). 10.50 Songs and Visions. A spectacular Elvis event from Wembley, featuring Rod Stewart, Toni Braxton, Robert Palmer, kd lang, Mary J Blige, Chaka Bon Jovi (35373806). 1.20 Top of the Pops (S)(T) (4815659).

1.50 Weather (9376663). To 1.55am. REGIONS. NI: 5.30 - 5.35 Newsline. Scot: 5.20 Afternoon Sportscene. 5.30 - 5.35 Reporting Scotland. 10.50 Sportscene -Match of the Day. Wales: 4.55 - 5.20 Wales on Saturday. 5.30 - 5.35 Wales Today.

### BBC2

6.20 Open University: The Rinuccini Chapel, Florence (7) (8849087). 6.45 From Snowdon to the Sea (9200177).

7.10 A Europe of the Regions (7) (3338974). 8.00 Open Saturday (818413). 10.30 EUST The Man in the Net (Michael Curtiz 1959 US). Plodding murder mystery with Alan Ladd (42088005).

12.05 Hancock's Half Hour (R) (7117239). 12.30 Follow That Dream (Gordon Douglas 1962 US). Bog-standard army-vet-in-Florida Elvis vehicle (T) (90687500).

2.15 Taxas Jathouse Rock (Richard Thorpe 1957 US). A song every 15 minutes in this tale of a hot-headed Elvis taken under the wing of a fellow con. Mickey

Shaughnessy plays Fletcher to the King's Godber (T) (491332). 3.50 IEEE It Happened at the World's Fair (Norman Taurog 1963 US). Elvis Presiey falls in love with a nurse and

sings a song or two (T) (294516). 5.35 Elvis – a Beginner's Guide. Jayne Middlerniss introduces a 10-minute Elvis crammer (S) (306871). 5.45 TOTP 2 (S) (813603). 6.35 Arena. See Preview, above (R)(S)(T)

(499332). 7.30 News and Sport, Weather (7) (494061).

7.40 Summer Dance. Sylvie Guillem stars with Nicklas Ek in the acclaimed Smoke, a bold dance duet by Swedish choreographer Mats Ek. Using music by Arvo Part, they explore the relationship between a man and a woman in two pas de deux (R)(S) (714177).

8.10 The Dynasty: the Nehru-Gandhi Story. When Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Sikh militants, her son Rajiv took power. He championed anti-apartheid and sought to bring peace to Sri Lanka, but suicide bombers took his life. Concluding part (S)(7) (890993).

9.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (R)(T) (1871). 9.30 Our Friends in the North. The fifth instalment and it's 1974 - Geordie finds himself in jail, Nicky is planning a

revolution from a sausage factory, and Tosker and Mary's marriage isn't all it could be (R)(S)(T) (4306055). 10.40 Arena. A tribute from the consistent documentary strand to the American writer William Burroughs, who died earlier this month at the age of 83. Filmed over a five-year period, it includes contributions from Allen Ginsberg, Frank Zappa, Laurie Anderson, Francis Bacon and

Burroughs' son, William Jr (6388852). 12.10 The Man With The Golden Arm (Otto Preminger 1955 US). Frank Sinatra shines as a professional card-dealer struggling with heroin addiction in Preminger's ground-breaking Eleanor Parker plays his embittered wife who persuades him to go back to his old job despite his plans to become a jazz drummer. With Kim Novak as an enticing

neighbour (681678). To 2.10am. REGIONS. Wales: 9.00 Elvis - A Beginner's Guide. 9.10 TOTP 2. 10.00 Our Friends in the North. 11.10 - 12.40 Arena.

### ITV/LWT

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News, 6.10 Professor Bubble, 6.30 Barney and Friends, 6:50 Our House, 7.10 Gummi Bears, 7.40 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.50 Big Bad Beetleborgs (7689719). 9.25 Mashed (S) (87929871).

11.30 The Chart Show (S) (39061). 12.30 Des Res. Ulrika Jonsson inspects an unusual toilet. Is there no end to her talent? (R)(S) (37535).

1.00 ITN News, Weather (7) (51388351).

1.05 London Weekend Today (51387622).

1.10 International Motor Racing. The International Formula 3000 from the

(S) (4009993). 2.15 Beach Volleyball (524264). 3.15 Atlantic Adventure (3943719).

Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Belgium

### Channel 4

(54964103).

6.45 Dennis (R) (7578993). 7.05 Sonic the Hedgehog (R) (5966264). 7.35 The Finder (R) (4435332). B.00 Transworld Sport (36697).

 9.00 Morning Line. A look ahead to the day's racing (S) (92622).
 10.00 Channel 4 Athletics. With some of our returning bronze and silver medal-wirmers in action (S) (60264). 11.00 Mission Impossible (T) (77500). 12.00 Rawhide (5662332).

12.55 Carnelot (Joshua Logan 1967 US). Extravagant knights of the Round Table musical, with Richard Harris as King Arthur and Vanessa Redgrave as Guinevere - at ease with the script but not so comfortable with the score (T)



Stones of the Raj 7pm C4 Crossroads of Independence: William Delrymple visits Lahore railway station

3.50 The Cosby Mysteries (S)(T) (3516790). 4.45 News, Sport, Weather (T) (5198413). 5.05 London Weekend Yonight (T) (2639448). 5.20 Sabrina (N) (T) (2639448). (3590790).

5.45 Love Me Do (S)(T) (826177). 6.30 The Big, Big Talent Show. With the Alan Partridge-esque illusionists, Labyrinth (S)(T) (494887). 7.25 You've Been Framed! (R)(S)(T) (731239).

7.55 First From Russia with Love (Terence Young 1963 UK). Sean Connery in the best Bond movie of all (T) (49777852). 10.05 News, Weather, Lottery Result (7) (583535).

10.20 A Date with Elvis. Johnny Vaughan presents an archive-rich tribute to the King of rock 'n' roll (7) (718662). 10.25 Stars in Their Eyes: Elvis Special. With Russ Abbott (R)(S)(T) (899806). 11.25 A Date with Elvis (624622).

11.30 alisi Love Me Tender (Robert D Webb 1956 US). Steady first feature for the actor Elvis Presley in this post-Civil War musical-drama (929142).

1.05 A Date with Elvis (3345253). 1.10 Elvis - the Alternative Aloha Concert

2.25 A Date with Elvis (1371765). 2.30 Elvis: the Movie (John Carpenter 1979 US). Kurt Russell does a better job than you might expect in this Elvis piopic (T) (86157982).

5.20 A Date with Elvis (6049949). 5.30 ITN News (19611). To 6.00am.

4.05 Wishful Thinking (S) (2951784).
4.10 The Living Sea (R)(S)(T) (7081993).
4.40 Kala Pant. Intriguing documentary about a thriving Pakistani community on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides (T) (3591069). 5.05 Brookside. Repeated baby anguish at Famham Towers, while Ollie looks set to

scupper Jimmy's embryonic teaching career (R)(S)(T) (2331177). 6.35 Access! All Areas: House Gang (7) (773055).

7.00 Stones of the Raj. See Preview, above (T) (2332). 7.30 Travelog Treks. An alternative guide to

the Grand Canyon (1) (158142). 7.45 The Decision. Update of last year's documentary about a family with a history of breast cancer (S)(T) (161005).

9.00 ER (R)(S)(T) (3581). 10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (R) (37644). Train to Pakistan (Pamela Rooks 1997 Ind/UK). Dramatisation of

Khushwant Singh's novel about a community-splitting murder in a post-partition Indian frontier village (T) (70881516). 12.10 Asian Station. Including Noble Savages,

12.45 Lata Mangeshkar in Concert (355901). 2.30 Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Party. A gig from the master of qawwali (Sufi music) (R)(S) (44632123).

5.35 Channel 4 Athletics (S) (7281479). To

### Channel 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (6363448). 6.30 The Great Garden Game. Gladiatorial gardening at Mount Stewart, Northern Ireland (R)(S)(T) (9877993).

7.00 5 News Early (S) (6305351).

(6391158). 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (2724429). 8.30 Beverly Hills 90210. Brenda invites a beeins a new kind of relationship with Emily, and Steve discovers the truth about his natural parents (S)(T)

(27901535). 9.50 Beverly Hills, 90210. A special "On ice" edition (S)(T) (6499061). 10.45 Mag Upfront. Young actors re-enact

childhood traumas and embarrassing moments suffered by celebrities in "Anything's Possible" (S) (25037239). 11.00 Turnstyle, Excellent hangover TV – the latest football news from around the country and a preview of the Sixth Test. Plus, rugby league's world club championships (S) (28105852).

12.50 5 News (S)(T) (59559974). 1.00 The Mag. Josie D'Arby introduces the youth entertainment slot with news, reviews, gossip, fashion and comedy, all of which is produced by the nippers nselves (S) (4618662).

2.00 USA High. US schoolbrats swan around Paris in this aspirational teenage sitcom (S) (69168974).

sitcom (S) (69168974).

2.20 The Mag (Continued) (S) (8367245).

3.15 Sunset Beach Omnibus. So-bad-it's-good Oceanside soap (7) (80804177).

6.00 5 News and Sport (S)(T) (1259235).

6.05 Hercules; the Legendary Journeys.

Hercules's murn, Alcmene, becomes the

pawn in a deadly game of revenge, poor thing, while Hercules, Demetrius and Echidna all stick their oar in (9077413). 6.55 Xena: Warrior Princess. Another instalment of the trussed-up heroine (S)

7.50 News and Sport (S)(T) (9212622).

8.10 JAG (2168239). 9.00 Entel The Great American Sex Scandal (Michael A Schultz 1990 US). Perhaps no-one at Channel 5 noticed the Elvis anniversary, as its usual output of telly movies plods on regardless. In this lightweight effort, Lynn Redgrave and Heather Locklear star in a tale of jurors on an embezziement case which turns into a sex scandal (97434087).

10.50 ELES Split Image (Ted Kotcheff 1982 US). An intelligent student is drawn into a bizarre hippy cult by Peter Fonda, causing parental fretting (23693158).

1.00 (Robert London Processor)

Kelljchian 1974 US). Gritty drama about a group of women who form their own "rape squad" when the police let them down (6665901).

2.40 FIED Whale Music (Richard J Lewis 1994 US). An offbeat account of two superstar - called Howl, wouldn't you know – and the teenager who brings him back to reality while he complete his whale symphony (6617727). 4.35 The Streets of San Francisco (7)

5.30 Whittle (R)(S)(T) (6257833). To

### ITV/Regions

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garriss and Videos (37535). 1.05 Anglia News and Westliner (51387622). 2.15 Film: Barney, Family Crama in which the caretaker of a children's pcry ma in which the caretaker of a children's SC\*; farm clashes with a greedy real-estate agent who is bent on tearing the farm down to make wall for a high-rise block. Starring Jack Klugman and Norma French (495158). 3.50 seaduest CSV (3516790). 5.05 - 5.20pm Anglia News, Sport and Weather (2639438).

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm Movres, Games and Videos (37535). 1.05 Central News and Weather (51387622). 2.15 Film: Sands of the Desart. Timid travel agent Charife Drake supervises the opening of a new holiday camp in the Sahara Slapstick with Peter Arne and Sarah Branch (157871). 3.55 Baywatch (3235719). 5.05 Central News and Weather (9600413). 5.10 - E 20em LTV Sport Classics (2656177).

5.20pm ITV Sport Classics (2656177). HIV WALLS As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garnes and Videos (37535), 1.05 HTV News (51387622), 2.15 sea(Quest DSV (4392974), 3.05 Film: This

2.15 seaklest USV 145929741. 3.05 Finite Trist is Elvis. Cockeyed Presley documentary made in collaboration with The King's con man manager. Colonel Parker, who vetoed toctage. (81753974). 5.05 - 5.20pm Sports News Weles

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garries and Videos (37535). 1.05 Mendian News and Weather (51387622). 2.15 World of Sailurg, Hoya Royal Lymington Cup (199332). 2.45 Cartoon (3022177). 2.55 Highway to Heaven (4149968). 3.50 seaQuest DSV (3516790). 5.05 - 5.20pm Meridian News and Weather (2639-148).

WESTCOUNTRY Westcounter As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (37535). 1.05 Westcountry News (51387622). 1.10 International Motor Razing (6801332). 2.10 Film: This is Elvis (149852). 3.55 Thunder in Paradise (3235719). 5.00 -5.20pm Westcountry News (2621429).

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (37535). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (51387622). 2.15 Film: Labour of Lave: The Ariette Schweitzer Story. Drama, based co a true story, about a woman who agrees to bear the children of her daughter through in vitro fertilization. Starring Ann Jillian, Tracey Gold and Bill Smitrovitch (495158). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (9600413). 5.10 - 5.20pm Scoreline (2656177).

**CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST** As Yorkshire except: 1.05pm North East News (\$1387622). 5.05 North East News (\$600413). 5.10 - 5.20pm Full Time (2656177).

As C4 except: 10.00am The Avengers (50254). 11.00 Channel 4 Athlehos (77500) 12.00 Mission Impossible (41784). 1.00 Film: Carnetot (21710061). 5.05 Newyddion (9608055). 5.10 Y Clwb Rvgbi (27907622). 8.00 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (465719). 8.15 Teymgad ( Barc yr Arfau (533332), 9,45 Breasts, 22 women, ranging in ages from six to 84 years of age, talk about how their breasts have affected their irves (908103). 10.45 Film: Train to Pakistan (70706871). 12.25 Asian Station (1730765). 1,00 Lata Mangeshkar in Concert (471630), 2,45 Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Party (4-17302). 4.45 - 5.45am Abida Parveen in Concert (551901).

### Radio

97.5-99.8Mz R/n 6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodler 12.30 Claire Sturgess 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Rampling – Lovegroove Dance Par-ty 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Judge Jules 4.00-6.00am Dave Clarke

### Radio 2

188-90.26612 RIO 6.00am Mo Dulta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Sat-urday Show 1.00 A Swift Laugh 1.30 The Jasper Carrott Trial 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Alan Freeman 5.30 Art Garfunkel in Concert 6.30 The Elvis Presley Story 7.30 John Williams Conducts the LSO (R) 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 lain Anderson's Edinburgh Festival 12.00 Bob Harris 2.00 Sue McGarry 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

(90.2-92.4Mbz Ran 6.55am Weather; News Headlines. 7.00 The BBC Orchestras. (R) 9.30 Humphrey Burton's Conduct-

12,00 Sound Choice. 1,00 News; The Christies of Glymdebourne. Featuring excerpts from Cavalli's Ormindo and La Calisto, Strauss's Capriccio and Tchallousky's Eugene Onegin.
3.00 Youth Orchestras of the World. In the fifth in an eightpart series, John Shea looks at the thirden with orchestra.

the thriving youth orchestra scene in Budapest. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests 5.45 Proms Feature: Schubert's Sommereise. In the spring and summer of 1825, Franz Schubert travelled through Upper beginning to compose his Great



A Muslim country where women occupy many of the positions of power -Rani Singh examines the Later, Ian Bostridge (left) sings Britten's Serenade. in the first of tonight's

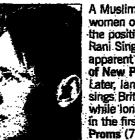
tine retraces this journey. (R) 6.30 Haydn. (R) 7.00 BBC Proms 97. (an Bostridge

ten: Serenade for tenor, hom and strings. See Choice, above. 7.55 What's So Wrong with Mendelssohn?
8.15 Concert, part 2, Wagner:
Slegified Idyll, Mendelssohn:
Symphony No 4 in A (Italian). 9.30 Books Abroad. This week,

Prodigal Son. Ivan Sharpe, tenor (Tempter), Charles Johnston, baritone (Father), Quentin

ing this summer's season of recordings from Radio 3's jazz archive, a concert featuring the American trumpeter Don Cherry. 1.00-7.00am Through the Night.

Choice



C major Symphony. Poet and German scholar David Constan-(tenor), Timothy Brown (horn), Norwegian Chamber

chestra/Iona Brown. Schubert mphony No 5 in B flat. Britnew fusions from the Caribbear why Chinese writers are saying

no, Hong Kong bookshops after the handover, and cliche-busting 10.00 BBC Proms 97. Britten: The Hayes, bartone (Elder Son).
Birminghern Contemporary Music Group/Sirnon Halsey.
11.20 Don Cherry's Nu. Continu-

TONIGHT - 10.50PM BBC1

The Greatest Hits of the last 40 years sung by a star-studded east in duets, trios & more from WEMBLEY STADIUM featuring:

ROD STEWART JONBONJOVI

ROBERT PALMER MARY J BLIGE

CHAKA KHAN

IGS & VISIONS ETHE CARLSBERG '97

SEAL TONI BRAXTON

KDLANG STEVE WINWOOD



apparent paradox in Women of New Pakistan (5pm R4): while long Brown conducts. Proms (7pm R3).

> GZ 494.5Mbz Fl4, 1984bz UV) 6.00am News Briefing.

6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Resultments 9.30 Bre 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; State of the Arts.

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 Inside Money. 12.25 Just a Minute. 12 55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Conflict in the 21st Century. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Book of the Year.

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Legion of the Lost. An historical come dy by Paul Bryers to commemo-rate an accidental Invasion of Wales by the French during the Napoleonic wars. With David Heaty. 4.00 News; That's History. 4.30 Science Now.

5.00 Women of New Pakistan. See

5.40 Continent Adrift - Letter from the Subcontinent. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Mammon. 6.50 Sensational Women. (R) 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Paul Gambaccini talks to 70-year-old

about the changes in pop music which he has observed over the 7.50 On These Days. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes. By Sir Arthur Conen Doyle. Starring Clive Merrison. (R) 9.35 Classics with Kay.

9,50 Ten to Ten.

Fluff Freeman about his life and

9.59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Late Night Theatre: Waterland. By Graham Swift, drama-tised in three parts by Steve

Chambers. With Roy Marsden as Torn. Part 1. moxed. (R) 11.30 Stanza. Simon Armitage meets singer/songwriter Billy Bragg. 12.00 News.

12.30 Late Story: The Indian Lauren Bacall. By Laia Keys, read by Sudha Bhuchar. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.50 Inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast

Radio 4 LW (92.4.94.63%) (4)

Radio 5 K2010 3
(633,909kiz MW)
6.00am Dirty Tackle 6.30 The
Breakfast Programme 9.00 Weekend 11.00 Top Gear 11.30 Sick as
a Parrot 12.00 Sportscall 1.00
Sport on Five 6.06 Sbx-O-Sbx 8.00
The Treatment 9.00 Deltyn UK
10.00 Brief Lives 10.30 Asian Perspective 11.00 News Extra 12.00
After Hours 2.00 Up All Night
5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM (160-101.9NAtz FM) 6.00am Jane Markham 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Masters of Coundown 12.00 Masters of Their Art 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Gardening Forum 7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic Quiz 12.00 Sally Peterson 2.00 Evening Concert 4.00-6.00am Sally Peterson

(1215, 1197-126M/b MW 105,8M/b FM) 6.00am Lynn Parsons 9.00 Nicky Horne 12.00 Nick Abbot 3.00 The Album Chart 6.00 Richard Porter 10.00 Howard Pearce 2.00-6.00am John Hipper World Service 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today

2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Encyclopae-dia Historica 3.00 Newsday 3.30

Music Review 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Review

4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 From

Our Own Correspondent 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Global

Virgin Radio

### 4.35 Abida Parveen in Concert (R) (3950340).

Satellite/cable 7.00am My Little Pony (12697). 7.30 Street Sharks (97332). 8.00 Press Your Luck (54784), 8.30 Love Commedian (35053). 9.00 Calandin Leap (41968). 10.00 Kung Fir (93516). 11.00 Legends of the Hid-den City (80177). 11.30 Sea Rescue (81806). 12.00 Wrestling (76448). 1.00 Wrestling (89968). 2.00 Star Trek (71806). 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (85622), 4.00 Beach Patrol (71429), 5.00 The Adventures of Sinbad (41264), 7.00
Tarzan: The Epic Adventure (98061), 9.00 Cops (97413). 9.30 LAPD (77177). 10.00 Law and Order (7/17). 10.00 Law and Order (55072). 11.00 La Law (94245). 12.00 The Movie Show (61098). 12.30 LAPD (55949). 1.00 Dream On (38825). 1.30 Saturday Night, Sunday Morning (10524). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (2839036).

7.00pm Superboy (5167531). 7.30 Superboy (5947968). 8.00 Kung Fu (8357239). 9.00 Pacific Drive (8350326). 11,00 In the Heat of the Night (8471429). 12,00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (8293562).

MOYIE CHÁNNEL 8.00 Behind the Waterfall (80500), 10.00 Big Top Pee-wee (86871). 12.00 Invisible Mom (76351), 2.00 Trapped in Paradise (23326). 4.00 The Swan Princess (2351). 6.00 Fluke (55090). 8.00 Waterworld (98921790). 10.15 Alistair MacLean's Night Watch (426790). 11.55 Serial Killer (568055). 1.35 Poetic Justice (575479). 3.25 Monster: Humanokts from the Deep (3221543). 4.55-6.00am Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear (7906765).

6.00am Southern Star (93361055). 7.45 Dad (520413). 9.45 ice Castles (701806). 11.45 It Could Happen To You (29939429), 1,30 All She Ever Wanted (29587806). 3.15 Dad (632178). 5.15 The Absolute Truth (60138719). 7.00 The Last Horne Run (90429). 9.00 Something to Talk About (12264). 11.00 From Dusk till Dawn (232448), 12.50 Sexual Out-laws (150543), 2.30 Suture\* (453524). 4.05-6.00am Reflections on a Crime (539104)

**2XJ HOALEZ COFT** 6.00pm Kid Galahad (9961871). 8.00 Tickle Me (9046516), 10.00 Alien (5489245), 12.00 into the Night (6250659). 1.55 Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer: More than Murder (3330833). 3.35-5.20am The Four Musketeers (5447833).

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7.00am Hold the Back Page (11326). 8.00 Aerobics (64500) 8.30 Racing News (63871). 9.00 Rugby: New Zealand v Australia (85413). 10.30 Watersports World (86177). 11.30 Super Dragsters (23852), 12.00 Sports Saturday (18351), 2.00 Rugby, New Zealand v Australia (39351), 3.30 Sports Satur-day Results (S0239), 5.30 Super Gay Resulus (50/239), 5.30 sulper Dragsters (75/00), 6.00 Super League - Live Sheffield v Bradford (446790), 8.30 Rugby, New Zealand v Australia (28806), 10.00 Tennis: WTA Du Maurier Open (776603), 1.00 Iron Man (50/253), 2.00-4.90am Australian Rules Football (69475),

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer AM (4394158). 12.00 Australian Rules Football (5894177). 2.00 World Motor Sport (7165581). 5.30 Iron Man (6387806). 6.30 The Winning Post (8957719). 8.30 Super Dragsters (4335784). 9.00 World Sport Special (9416603). 9.30 Australian Rules Football (5554622). 11.30-1.00am Super League (6170429).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00noon Golf; US PGA Champi-onship (22853887). 3.30 A Golfer's Travels (68790784). 4.00 Golf; US PGA Championship (36714790). 11.00 A Goffer's Travels (65773644). 11.30-12.00midnight

6.00am Fashion 6.30 Agony 7.00 Looking for Love 7.15 Pet Squad 7.30 A Game of Two Scarves 8.00 7.30 A Game of Two Scarves 8.00 Agony 8.30 Looking for Love 8.45 Pet Squad 9.00 Revelations 9.30 Fashion 10.00 A Game of Two Scarves 10.30 Looking for Love 10.45 Pet Squad 11.00 Agony 11.30 Fate and Fortune 12.00 Why Files? 12.30 Revelations 1.00 Looking for Love 1.15 Pet Squad 1.30 Agony 2.30 Canary Wharf 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Looking for Love 3.45 Pet Squad 4.00 Fashion 4.30 A Game of Two Scarves 5.00 Agony 5.30 Eva's Seventiles Pop Show 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sport 7.00 A Game of Two Scarves 7.30 Agony 8.00 Who Two Scarves 7.30 Agony 8.00 Who Danes Wins 8.30 Fate and Fortune 9.00 Why Files? 9.30 The Fashion Show 10.00 Topiess Darts; followed by Sport Live 10.30 A Game of Two Scarves 11.00 Topiess Darts; followed by the Sex Show 11.30 Exotica Eroti-ca 12.00 Exotica Erotica 12.30 PLeasuredome 1.00 Private Dancer 1.30 Sex Show 2.00 Exotica Erotica 2.30 Exotica Erotica 3.00 Private Dancer 3.30 The Sex Show 4.00 Exotica Erotica 4.30 Exotica Erotica 5.00 Sports Live 5.30-6.00am Shopping

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مكذا من الاحل

### n Scale fishy frisbee We identify with the

killer whale, the hunter. the thrower of dwarves

# aaronovitch

n a week that has ended with Dodi's ex-girliriend (number 1,438) Kelly Fisher - as represented publicly by her hairdresser threatening to sue the heir to the House of Fayed for breach of promise, one begins to wonder if life is not becoming unsatirisable. Increasingly beople behave as though they were the inventions of Tom Sharpe or Howard Jacobson: You can buy curry-flavoured condoms in some public lavatories.

So let us turn with relief to the natural world, where animals and fish, flowers and rocks do not deliberately set out to be silly or peculiar. They do what they do because evolution and environment tells them to. There is no caprice and no whim. Spiny nematodes do not read The Sun or Loaded.

My attention was drawn to a report on Thursday that marine scientists have discovered schools of killer whales that play frisbee. Really. But these clever mammals are not using plastic frisbees, cast off from hundreds of cruise ships and

washed up in killer whaleland. They use stingrays. Coming up from underneath these large flat fish, lifting them at speed out of the water, and then – with a flick tossing them at an angle into the air, where the rays possess similar aerodynamic qualities to the frisbee. Rotating quickly, the rays reach quite a high speed, and are often caught at the ends of their involuntary flights by

other killer whales, who then playfully – chuck them back. And - joy! - none of this is being done because the killer whales' publicists have told them that it will make great or will help to sell the latest CD of killer whale noises. But what I found really

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interesting about this tale was my own uneasy reaction to it. Far from feeling delighted about more evidence of killer-whale intelligence, the discovery made me think rather the less of the animals. Please don't accuse me of

being a namby-pamby goodytwo-shoes townie, who does not realise that all wild

animals exist in a harsh world in which they are forced to be 'nasty". I know there might be a perfectly good reason for this frisbee fun. But I still have a problem with the idea of "playing" with other live creatures without their own active participation. The ray does not choose to be skimmed, any more than the bear chooses to be baited, or the fox hunted. The illustrations from Alice in Wonderland, depicting her playing croquet with a flamingo and a hedgehog, have always struck me as cruel. As a child I used to construct a maze of tunnels out of boxes and cushions for Monty the rat to run through. But it always made me feel guilty that - left to himself -Monty never wanted to play. And the ancient country sport of dwarf-throwing has nearly died out because of distaste for what it implies about our attitudes.

Peel this initial reaction away, however, and something nearly as pernicious lies underneath. For although our sympathies may conceivably be with the persecuted object of the game, our association is almost invariably with the persecutor - the active player. We identify with the killer whale, the hunter, the baiter, the thrower of dwarves. "You belittle yourselves", we say, "by doing this undignified and cruel thing to a fellow sentient being! Desist!"

Well, fine. But shouldn't we

try to stand in the shoes of the other party to the game as well? After all, if a big bloke should not throw a dwarf, then it is also true that a dwarf ought not to be thrown And let us slip into the turquoise waters of a warm ocean alongside the ray, and wonder what it feels like to be wafting around the sandy shallows, minding your own business, looking for things to sting, when suddenly you find yourself flying through the Pacific air at high speed. It may very well be completely disorienting. Indeed, some unprepared rays may suffer significant trauma as a

Put like that, I am sure you will agree that the affairs of Dodi Fayed seem insignificant in comparison.

# The Union flag has had its day in the sun

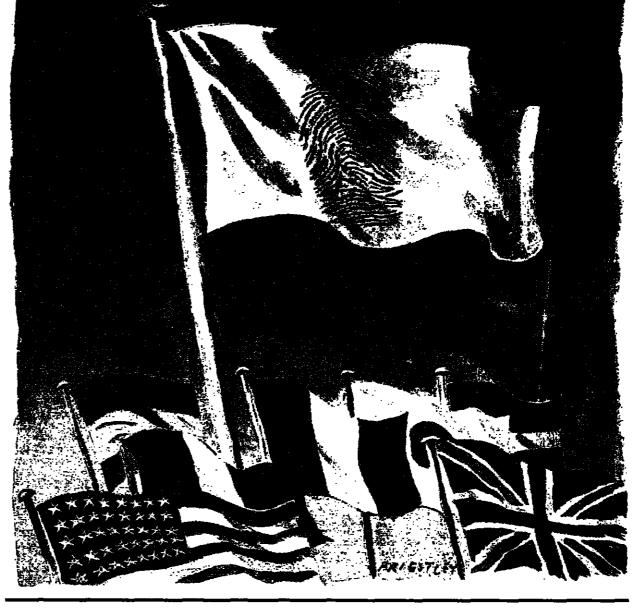
by Trevor Phillips

f you are reading this column, you are probably among those far-sighted Britons who have worked out that plobal warming has made the foreign holiday in summer redundant. Even if you are high-minded and think that meeting foreigners broadens your horizons, it is still best to stay at home. Ibiza is full of booze-fuelled Brits in search of a one-night stand (actually, a whole night may be excessive - for some young Brits one minute is apparently the equivalent of Tantric sex); and all the foreigners are here. Tony Travers, an LSE don, who knows more about this sort of thing than most, points out that if you want to meet the rest of the world in August, you don't need to waste your money in Italy, France, Spain, Japan or the United States, Just take a stroll down Regent Street in London. All humanity is there. Granted, wherever they come from they are wearing Levis and T-shirts made in Korea. and carrying cameras made in Japan, but the street is a horizontal Tower of Babel. Thank God, I say. They may be taking our manufacturing jobs, but frankly if we can dip our hands in their pockets to the tune of several billion a year, fair exchange is no robbery. And with all respect to those who have worked themselves up into rage over the British Tourist Authority's perfectly sensible plan to update its image, these people do not come to the UK to gaze ador-ingly at the Union flag - they want to experience our countryside, visit our stately homes, and above all they want to spend codies of dosh on our culture and arts, particularly in

London. I know that those leaping to the defence of the Union flag regard themselves as patriots. but they need to consider this: is it more patriotic to have a huge flag and no tourists, or a small flag and millions of cashrich visitors? You don't need three A-levels to work that one out. But even clever people like Brian Sewell and Peter Mandelson have been induced to ally entitled to lock you up if talk about this piece of secondrate 19th-century design as

though it were sacrosanct. I do not expect most people to be vexillologically literate, but even the newest wolf cub could tell you that this flag is less than 200 years old, having first appeared in 1801. Even then it was only one of several possible patriotic symbols. Horror of horrors: the symbol of British pride is junior to Old Glory, the American flag, the first version of which was hoisted in June 1777.

The flag worshippers would have a slightly stronger case if we as a nation behaved as though we cared about the thing. Americans salute their flag, and they are constitution-



'Why shouldn't every home have its own flag-post with both a national flag and a family flag? Mine would be particularly confusing, I'm afraid ... '

you show disrespect to it. The South Africans, having invented a new flag, decreed that it must be displayed above arry other flag; by law, you cannot use it as a tablecloth or to start or finish a race, and on no account must it ever touch the floor or the ground. Australians have had an acrimonious debate about changing their flag to recognise that country's multiculturalism and its debt to the Aboriginal peoples. Many Aussies want to reduce the importance of the Union emblem that sits in their flag's vexillological bonour point, the top left-hand corner as you look at it, in order to mark their

growing distance from the Crown. The debate became so

Australian government was forced to placate opponents of change with a law establishing that the flag could only be

changed by referendum. The British, on the other hand, have allowed the flag to become a marketing tool for the Spice Girls and Oasis; most of us have no chie whether it is being flown the right way up or not; and we stood by when fascist thugs used it as a symbol of resistance to diversity in

What the British Tourist Authority has cottoned on to is that for the past 10 years, our flag has been seen abroad principally on the flabby arses of lager-swilling louts or around

headed football hooligans. Far from being the banner of our national pride, it has been a symbol of our shame. The critics of the British

Tourist Authority really must think a bit harder. Flags have long been used as a mark of tribal national and military identity. The first to use them in this way were the Chinese. For some reason best known to the Zhou dynasty, their troops carried a white flag for nearly

a thousand years from aroun 1100BC. (Maybe their oppo nents kept thinking the battle was over, only to find themselves massacred by the Zhou gang, and that's how they lasted so long.) The Romans had a flag for every division of the shoulders of shaven- every legion. In feudal times,

each individual noble or knight had his own pennant, and carried it into battle. The idea of a single national flag is really less than two centuries old, and most have changed design over that period as what they represented changed.

The Union flag now represents what people call our "national identity" less accurately than ever. Unfortunately, the very term "national identity" is a red herring. It is nation state.

principally an invention of European leaders desperate to unite warring statelets in what is now Germany and Italy. That is not to say we do not share traditions and heritage, but we do have to distinguish between these two things on the one hand and identity on the other. Traditions are about history - rituals, practices and symbols shared by a group of people over centuries - the monarchy, for example. Heritage comes with birth - land, genes - and is therefore a matter of biology and geography; it can of course be shared by families, clans and tribes. But in the modern world identity is, inevitably, about psychology – an individual property, which in itself can change according to our situation. For example, at our children's school concerts we are principally parents; at football of the Chelsea tribe; we may at other times identify with our city. The point is that the modern Briton, the modern European, is an amalgam of tradition, heritage and personal

Given what we know of the mood in the country, it would make far more sense in 21stcentury Britain to fly the Scottish saltire, the Welsh Dragon, the Cross of St Patrick and the Cross of St George separately, to recognise the fact that in so far as the people of the British Isles identify with any nation. it is with people who share their traditions and their heritage, be those Scottish, Welsh,

Irish or English.

And we should go further: why should aristocrats and members of the House of Lords be the only people with symbols that are theirs alone? Why shouldn't every home have its own flag-post with both a national flag and a fam-

ily flag?

Mine would be particularly confusing, I'm afraid – dominated by the London skyline, perhaps on a background of Atlantic Blue to represent my family's crossing from Africa to the Caribbean, then the Caribbean to Britain; a bit of Guyanese rainforest, with a Scottish thistle rampant; topped by the journalists' contemporary symbol, the quartered flag of Microsoft Windows, crossed with a battered old trumpet. One of these outside every home and what a riot of colour our streets would become; and what better way to dance on the grave of that rotting, constricting and stagnant hangover from the 19th century, the

Approximately 1999

### Self-deprecation is the New Lassism

I'm 28, my career is reasonably successful and I do have a boyfriend. There, apparently, end my credentials for writing for publication. For there is an ever-growing

list of young women who appear to be employed solely to write about chaotic, unsatisfactory love lives: Kathryn Flett in The Observer, Emily Barr in The Guardian, Topaz Amoore in The Express, Anna Bhindy in The Times, Emma Forrest for a while in The Independent, Zoe Heller until recently in The Sunday Times, to name a few. I can count only one weekly female columnist who is allowed to suggest that women under 30 can have an idea, not just a lack of love

It is all deeply personal, often quite emotional stuff. Ms Flett, for example, has achieved notoriety by writing painfully raw pieces about the end of her short marriage - and by doing so, attracted far more attention than she did when writing about

urban life. There is a similar trend in publishing: witness the publicity given to Kathryn Harrison's book about her incestuous affair with her father, Susanna Kaysen's Girl, Interrupted, about her mental illness; or Elizabeth Wurtzel's battle with Prozac. These are also young, aniractive women with dysfunctional lives. the difference being that their lives are presented as excep-



Jojo Moyes

Everyday

stories of sexual. marital, drug-fuelled angst. Must female writers really wash their dirty laundry in public?

tional, while the newspaper columnists tell us that their lives are the norm.

What unites them all is a willingness to admit to failure. In the books there are serious journeys through big issues (drugs, incest, mental illness); in the columns, more usually, jokey, continuing series of lowlevel disappointments. Look how I sabotage my relationships! Look how my boyfriend doesn't love me back! Laugh with me as I joke about my drinking habits, my slovenly flat, my desperate, unfulfilled need to have children!

For these women, no problem, no personal trauma is deemed unsuitable to put into print. Written humorously, they somehow avoid humiliating themselves - self-deprecation takes the bite out of any charges of self-indulgence.

But charges of self-indulgence are unlikely when the use of the word "I" has become so acceptable. The confessional is the modus operandi of our time, in which the distinctions between the public and private spheres have become blurred. We are not unsettled when we hear about Ms Writer's sexual failures, despite her being a total stranger, because we have heard it all many times before: on television, in the problem pages of magazines, in the tabloids' kiss-and-tell. It is what the readers want, after all.

These self-revelatory col-

umns are the broadsheet news-

the tabloid cherry. They allow readers a prurient look into someone else's love life without any of the moral discomfort. Who can complain when the exposee is voluntarily doing

But to be ghouls at the feast, or eye-witnesses to the breakdown of Ms Flett's marriage, demeans us and her. It is like the pictures of Princess Diana kissing Dodi Fayed - we all look, while secretly not liking ourselves for doing so. Admittedly, not all pain is best kept private. Ms Flett has

the exposing?

argued, in her defence, that the phenomenal response to her revelations shows that there is a demand for this type of writing. This is not dissimilar to tabloid editors' arguments about paparazzi pictures and circulation. But after the attention has died down, will she really feel glad to have washed that dirty laundry in public? And when Ms Flett's life has achieved a semblance of balance again, who will be as interested to hear the sequel?

Zoë Heller's column, widely acknowledged to be the fore-rumer of the vogue, was the best-written - but Ms Heller had the sense to realise that there is a limit. Exposing herself in print week after week, she acknowledged, left her open to claims that she was little more than the bag of neuroses presented in her writing. She also grew tired of

nutters who - rightly or wrongly - believed that they knew her intimately from her writings.

But the columns keep on coming. The advent of Bridget Jones in this paper provides the apotheosis of this genre. The fact that the author Helen Fielding's creation was a fictional send-up did not prevent the resulting book from becoming a best-seller. But the use of Jones to extend the self-revelatory should be like the use of the spoof Mrs Merton to front a chat show - the ironic conclusion to a discredited format. No real woman could be more hopeless, more unlucky in love - and, most importantly, more entertaining - than Jones. All other columns now look like pale imitations of the imitation

The response to Bridget Jones shows how the distinction between fact and fiction has become blurred. Too often, one has the feeling that these writers beef up their own mishaps, their own unhappinesses, in order to make their lives saleable. After all, nobody wants to read about the smooth lives of those whom Jones calls the "smug marrieds".

Perhaps it is all a lighthearted bit of fun; a diversion from the serious stuff. But whether it is love or lasagne, the popularity of this genre suggests that women are still rooting themselves firmly in the

The safety zone. And it is unlikely to stop: newspapers are targeting young women readers, and this, they have decided, is what we want to

One editor (married, two children) told me that he reads these columns religiously, as they offer "a window into another world". But, like New Laddism, they are a construct fondly imagined by the middleaged to be a widespread phenomenon - one which makes people like him feel comfortable. These girls may be coming up at a rate of knots, but they are still a mess underneath.

Meanwhile, young women like myself are being done a disservice. We have good careers, mortgages, tax returns, viewpoints; there is more to us than our love lives. But we are left to conclude that it would be less controversial for us to drop our knickers in public than to expose the odd brain cell.

Readers of confessional columns are left with the impression that the way to succeed, if you are young, female, intelligent and want to write, is to broadcast your own failures. You are somehow much less threatening - much more likeable - when putting yourself down. Perhaps I just don't get the joke. But before I am accused of humourlessness, let me ask one question: how many young men do you see writing the same stuff?

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### The Rev Professor **Ulrich Simon**

interviewed for a lectureship in the theological department of King's College London. Sud-denly the emergency telephone rang. A student had been knocked off his bicycle just outside the college.

The Dean rushed to be with the student, asking his fellow interviewer, the theologian Ulrich Simon, to look after me - for I was, of course, the candidate. What part of the Old Testament was I working on? I mentioned Genesis. "Then you know what you should read?" I expected some weighty piece of German scholarship to be recommended. Weighty and German it certainly was, but not conventional scholarship: Thomas Mann's great novel Joseph und

What I was then quite unaware of was that Simon had known Thomas Mann during his childhood in Berlin: a childhood not always very prosperous in material terms, but surely an intellectual feast, with such as Mann and Dietrich Bonhoeffer as near neighbours. Simon's family were non-practising Jews, but, practising or not, their lives were at risk in the Third Reich and, after flirting with the Communists, Simon came to Britain in 1933.

His father was later put to death, and among Ulrich Simon's books his A Theology of Auschwitz (1967) must be the most chilling. His account, in his autobiography Sitting in Judge-



Nearly 40 years ago a nervous ment (1978), of the difficulties finding out their wishes. Siyoung candidate was being of his reception in Britain is a mon, whom I had thought reminder that attitudes to refugees have not changed much in the intervening years.

Unexpectedly the non-

practising Jew found himself attracted to the Church of England, and in what seems to have been an astonishingly short space of time he had become a Christian, and enrolled at King's College London with a view to ordination. He graduated and, after a brief time at Lincoln Theological College, was ordained in 1938 (would he have been interned as a suspected enemy alien if that had not happened?) and, after two parish curacies, returned to King's to spend the rest of his working life on its staff.

For many people, theology at King's was embodied by the unlikely combination of two wonderful but very different pastors: its Dean, Sydney Evans, the establishment man and superb organiser par excellence, and the utterly unpredictable Ulrich

Simon wrote extensively (a dozen books), but he never fit-ted into neat categories. He loved the Hebrew Scriptures, and his lectureship (later Readership) was in Old Testament. But as my first experience of him showed he was never a conventional Old Testament scholar. His study of Isaiah 40-55, Theology of Salvation (1953), displays rare insights, but features on few conventional reading-lists.

It was a disappointment to him that he did not receive the Old Testament professorship, but the electors wisely offered the chair to someone more in tune with mainstream scholarship. When Simon became a Professor, it was a personal chair with the title of Professor of Christian Literature - an apt and imaginative choice of title, for his knowledge of Christian literature was allembracing. Dante, Blake, Hölderlin, Dostoevsky - the range was enormous, the knowledge profound.

The students loved him. When in the 1960s students

might be quite alien to them, was their first choice. And it was not only theological students whom he could captivate. King's is known for the Non-Theological Associateship of King's College (AKC), the arrangement by which large numbers of students from every discipline could attend lectures offered by the theology department. Simon always attracted vast numbers.

He was never an administrator. He ended his academic career as Dean of King's, but unashamedly relied on others to see to the nuts and bolts of daily organisation. What he would have thought of current styles of university life, with research assessment exercises and the like, beggars description.

Ulrich Simon was a man of many paradoxes. He wrote two books on heaven, Heaven in the Christian Tradition (1958) and The Ascent to Heaven (1961), and the hope that it embodies Yet there was a side of him which was deeply pessimistic. The phrase "sick humanity" occurs frequently in his autobiography, and he was deeply distrustful of liberalism, both the ineffective liberalism, as he saw of it, of his German childhood, and the theological liberalism of more recent times.

It was the deep resonances of worship which had first attracted him to Christianity, and the "mateyness" of much contemporary worship he regarded as deplorable trivialisation. Yet there was always hope, perhaps most naturally enshrined in playing or listening to the string quartets of his beloved Hayon and Mozart; I am told that his last act, the day before he died, was to get his violin

**Richard Coggins** 

Ulrich Ernst Simon, theologian: born Berlin 21 September 1913; ordained deacon 1938, priest 1939; University Lecturer, King's College London 1945-60, Read-er in Theology 1960-72, Professor of Christian Literature 1972-80, Dean 1978-80; married wanted more say in the organ-isation of their programmes, I had to organise a straw vote 1949 Joan Westlake (two sons, one daughter); died London 31 July 1997.



Capt William McVicar

William McVicar was responsible for guiding an open lifeboat packed with fellow survivors more than 1,500 miles to safety, in one of the epic examples of human endurance in the Second World War. His unrivalled qualities as a seaman saved many young lives and his achievements highlight the often forgotten part that civilian merchant navy personnel played in wartime.

The events followed the sinking of SS Britannia off the McVicar kept their spirits up African coast on 23 March and organised duties for those 1941. McVicar was a 26-year-old third officer aboard the 8,799ton passenger vessel bound from Liverpool to Bombay when a German surface raider attacked with 70 shells from its six-inch gun. Britannia fired back to no effect and the 300 passengers and crew of 100 crowded into four lifeboats.

One of the grossly overloaded boats, carrying 82 sur-

vivors, was commanded by McVicar. He set a course for South America, 1.500 miles away, in preference to Dakar, which was 600 miles distant but inaccessible due to prevailing winds and currents. He put up a sail and immediately rationed the men to one ounce of water and one biscuit with a scraping of condensed milk per day.

The lifeboats had been machine-gunned and some of the men were wounded, but and organised duties for those fit enough, including lookouts and the collecting of precious rainwater. After they were 23 days at sea, exposed to all the elements, land was sighted, but by that time 44 men had died of their wounds or from exposure and the remaining 38 were in very poor health. They dragged themselves ashore near Sac Louis, Brazil, where they were discovered the following

morning by a group of fisher-men who fed them and took them in canoes up river to a hospital run by rums at Corupu. The British Consul was in-

formed by a note scribbled by McVicar and the survivors were repatriated after their recovery. McVicar was appointed MBE for his courage and leadership but rarely discussed the ordeal, apart from telling his friends and family that he could never face condensed milk again. His pregnant wife Nina, a sis-

ter in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Service, was told he was missing on the night the Clydebank blitz wreaked havoc close to their home in Greenock. She received the news that he had survived on Easter Day, and it later emerged that 200 people, half of those aboard Britannia, had

Only three months after the Britannia sinking, the next ves-

sel he sailed on, the troopship SS California, was bombed and sunk by torpedoes and gunfire in the Bay of Biscay, McVicar. a non-swimmer, again found himself in the water, but was rescued with most of his crew within hours. He took part in the

the war bringing home British prisoners of the Japanese. McVicar was born at Southend, Mull of Kintvre, in 1914, a son of the manse, the third in a family of five sons and a daughter, and was educated at Campbeltown Grammar

1944 Normandy landings and put ashore a unit from the Green

Howards on D-Day, finishing

School. He joined the merchant navy as a cadet aged 17. At the end of the Second World War, he resumed his lifelong career, with the (now long defunct) Anchor Line. sailing all over the world from

the canal zone during the Suez Crisis of the 1950s.

He became a senior captain of the Anchor Line and was master of its last passenger ship, the Ehsia. He retired in 1975 in the age of new technology, by which time he could pinpoint his position anywhere in the world to within 20 yards at the push of two buttons. However he spoke of having started his life at sea on **an open** bridge with no aides to navigation apart from compass, sextant and charts.

William "Mac" McVicar dist peacefully at his home in Trook Ayrshire, a stone's throw from

Campbell Thomas William McVicar, merchant sea man: born Southend, Mull of Kintyre 12 May 1914; married Nina Tawse (three daughters); Yorkhill Quay, Glasgow. His ship was trapped for weeks in 1997.

### **Hubert Lansley**

the late 1920s by the many thousands of intelligent boys (and a few girls) who were "hooked" on the Meccano hobby. In his articles in Meccano Magazine he showed new ways of using all those gears and strips and other parts with halfinch-spaced holes, held together with small nuts and bolts, to build working cranes, steam lorries, windmills . . . all driven (if pocket money allowed) by clockwork, steam, or even

Frank Hornby, while working in the Liverpool office of a wholesale butcher, had invented the principle of using interchangeable modular parts to construct models and toys for his sons. He soon built the famous Binns Road factory, in order to manufacture parts by the million; and even by 1920 he was spending an incredible £1,000 for a front-page advertisement in the Daily Mail.

Hubert was still a boy when his enthusiasm for Meccano inspired him to publish his own

back from the First World War to establish himself as a writer of non-fiction books for boys. Having answered a job vacancy advertisment in the Liverpool Écho, Hawks became the august editor of Meccano Magazine, while also in charge of the firm's advertising. In 1923, seeing Hubert Lans-

ley's knowledge and flair, he gave the 16-year-old a job as the expert writer in the main subject of his magazine. After a trial period in the London office. not too far from his Barnet home, he was summoned to work at the Liverpool headquarters. To start with, he shared digs (paid for by the firm) with the capable W.H. Mc-Cormick, formerly on the Yorkshire Post newspaper, and, who, years later, succeeded Hawks as MM editor.

Hubert's brief from Hawks was wonderful for a boy: with his own corner in the advertising department, he had freedom to make Meccano mechanisms

composer, 54; Mr Robert De Niro.

actor, 54; Mr David Donne, former chairman, Argos plc, 72; Sir Leonard Figg, former diplomat, 74; Mr Ted

lison Hawks, who had come ed. He was to write for the magazine under the pen-name of "Spanner", giving details of the models he built, with photographic illustrations.

Meccano was led forward by his original ideas and good writing, which his teenage readers enjoyed. They turned to his pages first, and only afterwards to Ellison Hawks's general engineering articles. It would seem that Hawks deliberately kept the readers hungry for more from Hubert about actual Meccano model building.

Perhaps it was just as well that Hawks was not a man to cooperate. There was already a department in the factory which devised new models to illustrate in the manuals enclosed with sets of parts, but Hubert Lansley was better able to explain principles and reasons. He opened up thousands of young minds. In 1925, Homby paid for him to spend a week at the great Wembley exhibition. At other times, he conducted visitors round the works. In 1926, aged

Hubert Lansley's writing was ea- little magazine on the subject. and models, with unlimited ac- 19, and then on the excellent Lansley (surprisingly) left to set gerly looked for every month in This came to the notice of El- cess to as many parts as he need wage of £5 a week, he married up his own Meccano Magazine ceased public late 1970s by the many light who had seen and the many parts as he need wage of £5 a week, he married up his own Meccano Magazine ceased public late 1970s by the many light who had seen and the many parts as he need wage of £5 a week, he married up his own Meccano Magazine ceased public late 1970s by the many light with the many linductions and the many light with the many light with the many li his fiancée, Violet Wright.

When Norman Moyes (a friend) visited him in 1989, he related how all the works and office staff were given a hotpot supper every year in a Liverpool restaurant: but the aloof Frank Hornby never attended. And Ellison Hawks was dictatorial in his manner; he was adept at lifting existing information and rewriting it; his relations with Hornby were cool. Lansley, a humble genius, was supported in his work for them by his own enthusiasm for Meccano. Moyes was also told how George Jones, Meccano's business manager, was known as "Felix the Cat" from his habit of wearing rubber shoes and standing behind employees silently, observing,

before moving on. But marketing was wisely orientated towards customer goodwill. Any boy who wrote in with a model-building problem would receive a full reply from an expert, perhaps Lansley himself, in a friendly style. In 1930, still aged only 23,

Muswell Hill with the firm's help, and with his wife as assistant. Only five years later, Hawks also left Meccano:

Hornby himself died in 1936. It was never the same after that. Nickel-plated parts were replaced with red and green enamel, then there were goldcoloured enamel parts and others in blue, criss-crossed with a pattern of gilt lines. With the Second World War, Meccano supplies were no longer available; Lansley had to close his shop. He made a second career. first, in accountancy and legal work; then, in the 1950s, he managed a London employment agency. Phillips Staff Bureau,

with success until he retired. In 1973 he found that Meccano enthusiasts were building better models than ever; he became the first Life President of the Society of Advanced Meccano Constructors, and enrolled as a member of the International Society of Meccanomen, which has members in 25 countries world-wide.

Meccano is still made, but lication in 1981. Its place has been taken by independent journals, such as International Meccanoman and Constructor Quarterly, produced by the enthusiasts who were sparked off by Hubert Lansley all those years ago, and who now build computer-controlled and radio-controlled models of

A surgeon in Israel uses Meccano for prototypes for new surgical tools. And Lansley himself made new friends only a year or so ago, when he brought his model printing machine to the present-day Mecca of Meccano, Henley-on-Thames, and set it working at the annual exhibition there. Enthusiasts of all ages revere his memory.

fascinating complexity.

John Westwood

Hubert Henry Lansley, journalist: born Barnet, Hertfordshire 25 September 1907; married 1926 Violet Wright (died 1993; two sons, one daughter); died Colchester, Essex 7 August 1997.



Meccano Magazine, August 1930. Lansley joined the magazine in 1923, aged 16. Seven years later he set up his own Meccano shop

### **Birthdays**

TODAY: Mr Bruce Beresford, film director, 57; Miss Ann Blyth, actress, 69. The Right Rev Ronald Bowlby, former Bishop of Southwark, 71; Miss Ann Chant, chief executive, Child Support Agency, 52; Sir Philip Dow-son, President, Royal Academy, 73; Mr George Galloway MP, 43; Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 63; Miss Bydie Gotme, singer, 65; Miss Katharine Hamnett, fashion design-er, 50; Mr Trevor McDonald, television news presenter, 58; Madonna. singer, 39; Sir Donald Maitland, former Chairman, Health Education Authority, 75; Mr Thomas Maschler. publisher, Jonathan Cape Children's Books, 64; Mr John Standing (Sir John Leon Bt), actor, 63; Profe William St Clair Symmers, pathologist, 80; Sir Jack Wellings, former chairman, the 600 Group, 80; Mr Franz Welser-Möst, music director, the London Philharmonic, 37; Professor Brian Woledge, Emeritus Pro-fessor of French Language and Literature, London University, 93.

TOMORROW: Mr Ian Brindle, senior partner, Price Waterhouse, 54; Mr Hugo Brumer, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 62; Mr Jim Courier, teanis player, 27; Mr Robin Cousins, ice-skater, 40; Mr Edward Cowic,

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births,

Adoptions, Marringes, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing

to the Genetic Editor, The Indeper 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine

Hughes, Poet Laureate, 67; Mr John Humphrys, broadcaster, 54; Miss Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 63; Mr Seamus Mallon MP, 61; Mr George Melly, jazz singer, 71; Mr Alan Minter, boxer, 46; Sir Alan Munro, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 62; Sir Vidia Naipaul, novelist, 65; Miss Maureen O'Hara, actress, 76; Mr Hamish Onr-Ewing, former chairman, Rank Xerox, 73; Dr Ewan Page, former Vice-Chancellor, Reading University, 69; Mr Nelson Piquet, racing driver, 45; Mr Barry Sheerman MP, 57; Mr Richard Stott, former Editor, Today, 54; Mr Anthony Valentine, actor, 58; Mrs Susan Williams, former Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, 82; Professor Michael Wise, geographer, 79; Sir Tony Wrigley, Master, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 66.

### Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Jean de La Bruyère, essayist and moralist, 1645; Jules Laforgue, poet and critic, 1860; Georgette Heyer, novelist, 1902; Wendell Meredith Stanley, bio-chemist, 1904. Deaths: Andrew Mar-

0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293

2010, and are charged at 26.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette an-

coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They

nents (notices, functions, Forth-

vell, poet, 1678; George Herman "Babe" Ruth, baseball player, 1948; Margaret Munnerlyn Mitchell, author of Gone With the Wind, 1949; Bela Lugosi (Bela Blasko), actor, 1956; Elvis Aaron Presiey, rock singer, 1977; Stewart Granger, (James Lablanche Stewart), actor, 1993. On this day: the Jesuits were expelled from Rome, 1773; the Perterloo Massacre took place at St Pe-ter's Field, Manchester, 1819; the trial of Queen Caroline for adultery began, 1820; the Tate Gallery, London, was opened, 1897; Britain applied for membership of the EEC, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Armel, St ins and St Stephen of Hungary

TOMORROW: Births: John III, King of Poland, 1629; Davy Crock-ett, frontiersman, 1786; Mae West, actress, 1892. Deaths: Frederick II (the Great), king of Prussia, 1786; Honoré de Balzac, novelist, 1850; Ira Gershwin (Israel Gershwin), lyticist, 1983; Walter Richard Rudolf Hess. Hitler's former deputy, 1987. On this day: Cronwell's army was victorious at the Battle of Preston, 1648; building of the Wall between East and West Berlin began, 1961. Tomorrow is the Fenst Day of St Clare of Montefalco, St Eusebius, pope, St Hyacinth, St Joan Delanoue, St Lib eratus of Capua, St Mamas and St Rock or Rock.

Changing of the Guard

Changing of the Guard
TODAY The King's Toop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at
Horse Guards, I lam. TOMORROW: The
King's Toop Royal Horse Artillery mounts
the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards,
10arts, Nijmegen Company. Grenacher
Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at
Buckingham Paloce, I L'30am, band protided by the Irish Guards.

### Cool! Soggy Rice Krispies on the beach

The Day Off was never a problem. "And on the seventh day God rested." But there's nothing in the Bible about what happened in the summer when God ought to have gone to the coast. But God doesn't go away on holiday. This might explain why so many peo-ple find God while they're away on

There are certainly plenty who go looking. Figures released on Monday by the English Tourist Board show that nearly 22 million people visited the top 124 cathedrals and churches in England in 1996. Two and a half million people visited Westminster Abbey; two and a quarter million visited York Minster. St Paul's and Canterbury Cathedrals each attracted about two million - that's about the same number of visitors that Mecca gets during the Haj. Even discounting the bored French school parties, these are vast numbers of spiritual tourists, many of them cramming their visits into the few short weeks of

the summer holidays. I ought to have been aware of holiday religion sooner. After all, the paper I edit, the Church Times, carries a page of adverts each week from churches inviting holidaymakers to worship with them. There are reassuring details - "coffee in church hall after service", "vin d'amitié in parish hall" (this on the French Riviera), 'easy parking", "WC". And there are

### faith o reason

Even in these secular times, holidays can be holy days. Paul Handley is impressed by evidence that holidaymakers have an unusual openness to spiritual influences.

phrases designed to attract the yearning pilgrim: "St Luke's is plain, yet withal beautiful, in its calm severity"; There is not a finer situation outside the Alps or among them more beautiful than this' (Wordsworth)". Instead of frowning at newcomers who sit in the wrong pew and can't find their places in the service books, these churches recognise the strong needs which people turn up with.

Holiday religion is a strange phenomenon. The clergy who work in resorts tell me that holidaymakers are much more open to spiritual influences than are ordinary churchgoers. As people's lives - and indeed, holidays -become more frenetic, the longing for

visit to a church by the sea or a chapel in Tuscany can jolt people out of their spiritual (or unspiritual) rut.

Sometimes it is very different. My old-er children have been attending a Scripture Union beach mission for the past fortnight. In one service I went to, one team member was fed ketchupcoated fish by somebody in a blindfold. and another had soggy Rice Krispies and toast crumbs poured over them. ("Cool! That was the best bit!") Try that in your local church, and the letters of complaint will be on the bishop's desk

by first thing Monday morning.
Perhaps this is something the central church authorities ought to wake up to. Not the tomato ketchup on the chancel carpet, necessarily, but the existence of a parallel pattern of worship (for want of a better word). The weight of the Church's teaching is placed on the need for regularity, doing your duty "Sunday by Sunday", to use the vogue phrase. The Roman Catholic catechism states: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." Where I first went to church, those of us who went to church only once on a Sunday had a question mark placed in our "commitment" tickbox.

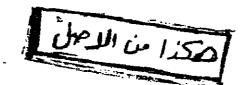
But most people in this country don't manage this sort of regular atrest and peace is increasingly unsatis-fied. Partly because it is different, a should? Does it make you better these secular times, it seems that they can still be holy days.

(though this, admittedly, is not the only purpose of church worship) if you get to church once a week rather than once a fortnight? And is once a fortnight really any better than once in a while? The steady drip of regular, dutiful attendance sounds good; but there is a case to be made for splurge spirituality (there's that ketchup again), especially when so many peo-ple already practise it. What you lose

in familiarity you can gain in intensity.
This is the answer to those who equate holiday religion with holiday romance - the critics who say that once you've kissed your holiday host goodbye (and I'm sure that's all Diana, Princess of Wales was doing) and helicoptered back to real life, you quickly lose the benefit of any insights gained and feel, perhaps, just a little

That's just not true. I heard this week about a businessman who kept a postcard of a Suffolk church by his desk: he said the memento of his visit helped to sustain him through the rest of the year. I heard, too, about a magazine editor whose betrothed went to immense trouble to arrange their wedding in a Lake District church which had been fixed in his mind since a childhood visit. The influence of these intense. moments can be long-lasting. Even in these secular times, it seems, holidays

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### market report/shares



### US rates could now decide the future of the bull run

Blue chips got themselves into a rare old tizzy with Footsie crashing 125.5 points, the biggest points fall since the black days of the crash nearly a decade ago.

But shares have, of course, risen dramatically since the trauma of 1987. And in percentage terms the slide was less than occurred during the crash and pales against plunges since the horrific meltdown. In October five years ago Footsie slumped just over 4 per cent against 2.51 per cent vesterday.

Futures action on both sides of the Atlantic did some damage. Worries about interest rates were another influence. Vague indications highly geared maverick hedge funds may be cutting their London

positions were also unsettling. But the dramatic slide seemed to be more the snowballing result of a series of unrelated and undramatic rection and blue chips are happenings and views than

any single, identifiable factor. Trading was not heavy and there was no panicky selling.

Blue chips went into retreat from the first bell although manoeuvring ahead of the Footsie futures expiry allowed shares to more or less hold the line in early trading. Once the futures action was completed worries about New York sent Footsie steadily lower. When New York opened

slide steepened. And it seemed to gather its own momentum. Even a modest transatlantic rally was brushed aside.

So the index closed at 4,865.8 which, illustrating just how strong blue chips have been, is the lowest for only three weeks.

sharply down a relatively gentle

three weeks. There is, of course, a pressing desire in some quarters to get Footsie lower. Many be-lieve there is a need for a corhopelessly overvalued.



#### MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

A Friday afternoon in the holiday season with many mar-ket men, including experi-enced players, away from their offices presented an ideal environment for what amounted to a rout in a vacuum.

The stories going the rounds ranged from big sell pro-grammes with institutions allegedly switching into second liners and talk a big investment house was dumping stock ahead of a downbeat review of blue chips.

There was, of course, some profit taking. Many market men confessed they were puzzled by a crash without reason or sub-

stance. Said one: "It's some-

thing of a mystery. Nothing has happened to spook the market. Many feel a correction is necessary but the nature and speed of the fall is astonishing." It will be interesting to see

whether the market adopts a more resilient attitude on Monday. If further weakness occurs - and US interest rates could go up next week - then the great bull run could be

Amid the mayhem second and third liners kept their cool. The FISE 250 index edged ahead; so did the FTSE SmallCaps index. They were. however, not immune from the demoralising behaviour of

their peers and finished below

their best. Among supporting shares ending higher were Greenalls, the hotels and pubs chain, 10.5p to 487.5p, and Psion, the computer group, 15p

to 376.5p. Financials, which led the blue-chip charge, took a bat-tering. HSBC, ruffled by higher Hong Kong interest rates and the biggest share fall since the Chinese took over, fell 166.5p to 2,167.5p. It alone accounted for 16 points of

Footsie's fall.
Associated British Foods, on talk it could lead a break-up on talk it could lead a break-up bid for struggling Dalgety, lost 38.5p to 498.5p and BSkyB, as Sam Chisholm's swan song failed to please, lost 33p to 437p. On such a day blue chip there were few and far beflyers were few and far be-tween. National Grid, with a

2.4 per cent advance to 256p. topped the pile. Significantly, BTR made further headway, up 1p to 215p.

Alliance & Leicester re-

620.5p.
Edos, the computer games group, crashed 102.5p to 447.5p following a widening

first-quarter loss and allegations regulators were investi-gating share dealings. Proving a day is a long time in the market Graystone, an en-gineer, said bid talks were off. On Thursday it issued a state-ment that the negotiations.

tinuing. With the company adding that figures would not meet market hopes the shares more than halved to 39p. A warning from ABI Leisure, the caravan group, that a forecast two weeks ago of profits of £4.5m was wrong and the group would suffer a loss, knocked the shares 27p to

38p; Portmeirion Potteries was

smashed 65p to 430p on a cau-

tious trading statement.

started a month ago, were con-

flected solid interim figures and talk it is near to making an acquisition with an 8p lift to on its shares. Last month it group, is keeping an eagle eye on its shares. Last month it said it was unable to explain a fall which took its price

Taking Stock

from 35p to 29.5p. Yesterday it was again unable to account for a decline from 29p to 25.5p and said trading was satisfactory and ahead of budget.

In the year to end-March the company produced profits of £926,090, up from £106,000. A few years ago it approached £3m.

Celtic, the Glasgow foothall club selling more season tickets than any other club in Britain, scores with stockbro-

ker Greig Middleton. Analyst Nick Batram forecasts profits of £5m followed

by £6.6m and thinks he is being cautious. He does not expect a dividend. The shares held at

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# DUSINESS & CITY FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098 DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

# Footsie sheds 2.5% as second-liners bounce back

**Tom Stevenson** Financial Editor

Investors turned their backs on the stock market's high-flying blue chip shares yesterday, subjecting the FTSE 100 index to its biggest one-day fall since

the stock market crash of 1987. The damage was restricted to

The 125.5-point fall recorded by the FTSE 100 index of leading shares was driven by a slump in the banking sector rise so far this year and become the index's most powerful force. the top flight, however, as in- So important have financial vestors poured money into the stocks become, that a 166.5p fall

day's dramatic decline, after a week in which economic data in the UK and US were surprisingly benign. Fears of interest rate rises in America were put which has driven the market's on hold by figures showing con-

sumer prices growing at their slowest rate for 11 years. The FTSE 250 index of vestors poured money into the exchange rate-sensitive second-liners which are expected to stocks become, that a 166.5p fall stocks falling just outside the market's 100 largest, rose yesterday by 8.3 points to 4698.2 as

porters following a fall in the value of the pound and comments this week from the Bank of England suggesting further weakness is likely.

Leading stocks were given a lead by Hong Kong's Hang Seng index, which fell 400 points to 16,096.9 after threemonth lending rates in the former colony rose to 9 per cent, their highest since 1995. That hit

benefit most from the recent easing in the strength of the had an explanation for yester-Kong market, especially hard. Afternoon dealing was fur-

ther depressed by weakness on Wall Street, which was 122.6 points lower within minutes of the opening bell in New York.

The volatility of the FTSE 100 index, which closed at 4,865.8 yesterday, is certain to open up the debate about how

good a yardstick of UK invest-

ment sentiment it now is.

quoted companies have become increasingly divergent

this year. Despite an 18.1 per cent rise in the value of the FISE 100 index since the beginning of the year, the FTSE 250 index has risen only 4.6 per cent. Yesterday's movements confirmed the belief of an increasing number of investors that any re-

Its fortunes and those of the market is in the second-liners rest of the UK's more than 2,000 and Small Cap constituents, which were also unfazed by the turnoil in the larger stocks. Smaller stocks, which include

many manufacturing companies dependent on overse end-markets, have benefited from the recent depreciation in the pound, which traded yesterday at DMC 93, against a high last month of DM3.07.

Some smaller companies maining value in the stock likely to profit from the fall in

the pound rallied yesterday. Paper and plastics group Bun-zi jumped 11.5p, or 5.1 per cent. to 238.5p. Other FISE 250 constituents to rise included. Williams, Rexam, BICC and

Further pressure was put on sterling this week by the Bank of England, which said in its lat-est quarterly Inflation Report that it expected a further 10 at cent devaluation over the it.

### Warning mars Chisholm's exit from BSkyB

**Cathy Newman** 

Sam Chisholm yesterday drew a line under his reign at the head of BSkyB, the satellite giant, as he made his final presentation of the company's results. But his finale was marred by concerns over the company's future

prospects.
The City voted with its feet, sending Sky's shares plummet-ing 7 per cent to 437p after Mr Chisholm warned the launch of digital television would knock

At what was at times an emotional presentation, Mr Chisholm repeatedly bemoaned the fact that illness had forced him to step down, but said it would have been "irresponsible" for him to carry on. Likening the launch of digital to mountaineering, he said: "There is no point getting half-way up a mountain and saying 'Look, I don't feel well'. I made the decision to go: it was the respon-

sible thing for the to do." But his regret at having to leave was always evident, and he paid tribute to his colleagues at the satellite broadcaster. "I have been very proud and delighted to be part of it all," he said. "If it hadn't been for my indifferent health I probably would have stayed on. I envy



Mark Booth: Poised to take over at the company

charge to carry this thing for-

Mr Chisholm, who announced in June that he and his deputy would step down at the end of the year, indicated that maintaining "spectacular" profits after the launch of digital would be unlikely.

"If we took the launch of digital and attendant costs and maintained profits, it would be spectacular." However, Mr Chisholm said, "It is our intention to keep this company in rapid growth."

City analysts pointed out that Sky's profits had been artificially inflated by a £14m gain from Sky's withdrawal from British

of the merger of BSB and Sky,

Stripping out these excep-tional items, underlying pre-tax profits came in at £292m, below most analysts' expectations of around £305m.

Followers of Sky were also disappointed that Mark Booth, the 40 year-old pretender to Mr Chisholm's crown and head of Rupert Murdoch's Japanese satellite operation JSkyB, was not taking questions at the presentation.

Paul Richards, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said it would have been helpful to get an idea of Mr Booth's thoughts and the future format of the

Mr Richards said Sky's plans for the advent of digital were short on detail, and that the company refused to give details of marketing costs for the launch of the service. "A lack of real news about digital, combined with slightly under-whelming figures pushed the shares down," he said. Mr Chisholm's ambitions for

the company, which he inherited when it was losing £14m a week at the time of the merger with BSB, were undimmed, despite his imminent departure. He said he was confident



Sam Chisholm: Unhappy that illness has prevented him from continuing his role at BSkyB

tial to reach 50 per cent of the

Mr Chisholm denied that the resignation of the top two executives had been badly handled, saying that it was a "copybook handover". However,

who takes on a consultancy role after Christmas.

Questioned on his involvement with the company after Christmas, Mr Chisholm said he would stay on the board in a non-executive role, but would

he would still have a hands-on approach to Sky, adding: "Most of my advice comes unsolicited,

He reserved his final words for the press, with whom he has had a love-hate relationship Mark Booth [his successor] Digital Broadcasting, and a that Sky, which is taken in one there was no news on a full-time probably "do a few days a week over the years. He said that his and Mr Chance ann enormously in having the £7.4m credit from satellite tech- in four homes, had the poten- replacement for Mr Chance, at the office". But he joked that dialogue with the press had they were to bow out.

not always been "pleasant" but it had always been "honest", and that "lots of times" Sky had been "criticised with justifica-

Sky's share-price has been under siege since Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance announced

### **Eidos** shares hit by reports

John Willcock

Shares in Eidos, the develo of smash-hit computer game "Tomb Raider", fell by nearly a fifth to 447.5p yesterday following press reports of an investigation by City regulators into share dealings in the company. However, Charles Cornwall. chairman of Eidos, insisted yesterday that "neither the com-

pany nor its advisers were aware of any investigation". Eidos announced a loss before tax of £4.9m in the three months to the end of June this year, in line with most forecasts. Mr Cornwall said the company was "still on target to make a profit

in the year to March 1998." Mr Cornwall said the company's share price was vulnerable following the decision by Coopers & Lybrand last w k
not to stand for re-election as Eidos' auditors. They will be replaced by KPMG.

The chairman said Coopers had decided not to stand again because Eidos had failed to comply with several Cadbury Committee guidelines, which had now been rectified. We had some pretty tense moments with them, but choosing not to stand for re-election is very different to resignation," he said.

The company intends to appoint some new non-executive directors "in the near future" in order to bring it more into line with Cadbury.

Eidos is the world's third largest developer of computer mes software and its "Tomb Raider has sold 2 million copies.

Flextech plans

Jane Austen

centrepiece

### **Pearson sells** publishing unit for £57m

**Cathy Newman** 

Marjorie Scardino, the chief executive of media conglomerate Pearson, has delivered on one of her promises to weed out non-core businesses by selling part of its medical books division, which publishes Gray's Anatomy, in her first big disposal since arriving at the group in

The deal promises to be the first of many as Ms Scardino embarks on a wide-ranging shake-up Pearson, the group which controls a diverse set of businesses from the Financial Times to leisure attractions such as Madame Tussauds.

Pearson indicated earlier this year that it would put its 50 per cent stake in Lazard Brothers. the merchant bank, up for sale. It is also planning to sell resid-ual stakes in BSkyB and SES, the Luxembourg-based Astra satellite owner.

Pearson announced yesterday that it had sold Churchill Livingstone, publisher of the medical textbook, to Harcourt

Churchill Communications, the other element of Pearson's medical publishing interests, is

likely to be disposed of later. Churchill Livingstone, found ed in 1812 and one of the oldest medical publishers in the world, publishes over 1,500 books and CD-Roms, and 70 journals for healthcare professionals. It was acquired by Pearson around 30 years ago, and has almost 200 staff. Its operations are based in the US and the UK.

Peter Warwick, chief execu-

City analysts said that Pear-

Enterprise Oil has discovered

tive of Pearson Professional, said: "Our ambition matches that of Pearson as a whole: to have strong positions in our chosen markets. Churchill Livingstone has a highly prestigious list, first-rate authors and excellent, dedicated staff, but we believe our resources can be better deployed in focusing on a smaller number of publishing

son had secured a fair price for

General, for \$92.5m (£57.5m).

a Second World War bomb, dropped by a German Luftwaffe pilot, just nine feet from one of its main oil pipelines in the heart of the biggest oil pro-ducing area in the North Sea. It has been forced to employ private contractors to remove and blow up the 250kg bomb and will have to close the

pipeline for up to five days. The oil company angrily denied earlier press reports that the Royal Navy had advised it to dismantle part of the pipeline and detonate the bomb where it lay. Enterprise also denied it was risking a large oil

Ron Davie, acting general nanager of Enterprise Oil, said: "As soon as we discovered the bomb we approached the



Enterprise Oil's Nelson platform (above) has been affected by disposal of the bomb

### Bomb halts output in North Sea field

Royal Navy and a number of from its Nelson oil platform, other organisations for advice. They never advised us to dismantle any of the pipeline, and said that exploding the bomb on the spot would be more dangerous than moving

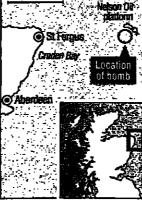
The company also said that even though there was minimal risk to the pipeline, it would be filled with water while the bomb was detonated, dispelling any risk of an oil spillage.

A private contractor will move the homb, which is lying in more than 100 metres of water and some 8 kilometres

submersible operated from a specially modified ship. "The Navy told us 100 metres down in cold water is the salest place

for the bomb," Mr Davie added. Enterprise said the 160,000 barrel-a-day oilfield would be closed for up to five days in an operation expected to take place in the next few weeks. Mr Davie insisted the Navy had advised him the bomb represeuted only a "minimal risk".

The bomb was detected during a routine annual survey of the pipeline, three kilometres fields using the Forties system.



from British Petroleum's For-ties field Echo platform. The area is the biggest producer of oil in the North Sea, and lies between Aberdeen and Scandanavia.

The company said it pre-samed a traveler had dragged the bomb along the sea bed, since there was no seaweed on its casing. Many bombs were ditched in the sea during the Second World War by German bombers either aborting missions or returning from unsuccessful attacks on cities. Many are encountered on the sea floor by companies laying cables and pipelines, Enterprise said.

The Nelson platform supplies crude as part of the Forties network to Cruden Bay in Scotland. Enterprise said the operation will have no impact on crude supplies from other

1128 +3.4pc 109.1 21 Aug

# television company, yesterday unveiled some of the pro-

Flextech plans to provide three new pay-TV satellite channels by Christmas and to revamp its existing UK Gold channel, offering classic comedy such as Only Fools and Horses from the BBC archives. The collection of Jane Austen films and dramas will be

**Cathy Newman** 

Flextech, the cable and satellite

grammes it plans to screen in its

new joint venture with the BBC. The centrepiece will be a

Jane Austen week before

Christmas this year, aimed at

marking Flextech as a heritage

drama programmer.

shown on its new Arena channel. Arena will also broadcast "Dennis Potter-style drama", according to insiders. A style channel will feature lifestyle programming like The Antiques Roadshow, and the Horizons channel will include documentaries by names such as David Attenborough.

The new UK Gold will also begin transmission by the end of the year. All four channels will be shown on analogue cable and satellite until the launch of digital television next year.

Flextech signed the £200m deal with the BBC earlier this year, promising to create up to eight pay-TV channels to be broadcast on analogue and digital television. Four of these will not now launch until next year.

Under the deal, Flextech put up £22m of equity and up to £188m of debt, in return for get-ting open access to the BBC's entire programme library. As he announced results for

the six months to the end of June, Roger Luard, Flextech's group chief executive, said the company would save £4m in a year by deciding not to invest any further in European Business News, the business channel. Flextech has poured

£9m into the channel over the last two years.

L steps

Mr Luard added that Flextech may sell its 30 per cent stake in EBN. Dow Jones, the American media group which owns the Wall Street Journal EBN's majority shareholder. Reports that EBN and Asia Business News, also owned by Dow Jones, would merge with CNBC have heightened uncertainty over Flextech's future



Roger Luard: Will save £4m by not investing in EBN

involvement with EBN.

Flextech reported a preexceptional loss of £1.7m in the first half, an improvement onthe £7.8m loss before exceptionals it made in the same period last year.

Mr Luard said he was "confident" Flextech was now well-placed for the rapid evolution of the television industry. in the coming months and years.

Exceptional charges for the six months to the end of June related to the £1.6m repositioning of the Family Channel as Challenge TV and the £5m launch of the new programming strand, Trouble, aimed at 10-24

However, these charges were partly offset by the £5.9m credit. from the disposal of Flextech's 23 per cent stake in HIT

Bay's change | Change (%) 1996/97 High 1996/97 Low | Yield (%) 5086.80 4056.60 3.31 FTSE 250 2438,00 2017.90 3.35 <u>ftse 350</u> +8.55 +0.420681.07 17303.85 0.811 19222.62 +214.02 +1.1 16673.27 12055.17 2.711 4438.93 2848.77 1.301 16497.71 +14.78 +0.1 **-47.05 -1.1** Statistics as of 15 August

STOCK MARKETS

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CURRENCIES

حكدًا من المدحل

### business



#### MICHAEL HARRISON

. What Government changes look like encouraging is a further shift away from arts courses to much more vocational

degrees.... That will ease employers who have long argued that making education more relevant to the world of work would make the biggest

single contribution

competitiveness'

to Britain's

### A salutary lesson in undergraduate economics

iles is 18 and lives across the road. This weekend he and his parents, This weekend he and his parents like thousands of others around the choice. Should country, face a difficult choice. Should Miles stick to his plans and take a year off before going to university or should he try to get a place this autumn? The financial implications are large. The Government's decision to scrap maintenance grants and start charging tuition fees from next year could leave him with a bill of more than £9,000 when he has finished his three-year geography and economics degree. That is probably about what he will earn during his year off working at one of the big high street

If it is any consolation, his financial position is not as bad as it could be. Miles lives in a nice area (how could it be otherwise?) and his parents, it would be fair to say, are comfortably off. If Miles came from a poorer family, he could, paradoxically, end up with a loan of more than £12,000 to repay after college because of the way the new formula will work.

Behind the dilemma facing Miles and thousands of school leavers like him, there lies, of course, a bigger question. Everyone accepts that there is a funding crisis in higher education. But do you solve it by shifting more of the burden on to parents and students and what will the long-term effects be on the economy? There are broadly two schools of thought.

only benefit wider society and lead to greater economic prosperity. What's more, the cost of providing free university education is more than covered by the higher taxes university-educated people pay. Start charg-ing fees and you will get fewer applicants. The other school of thought says this is baloney. Free higher education is just a middle-class subsidy and one paid for,

the system, thereby producing a better-educated, more skilled workforce which can

moreover, out of the taxes of the less well-off. Since graduates can earn 20 per cent more than non graduates for doing the same job, surely it is right that they should make some contribution. After all, rights always come attached to responsibilities. Nor is there is any evidence that making students pay their way deters them from entering college. Look at the United States and Canada, or the tiger economies of the Pacific Rim, or even Australia and Italy for that matter. All of them charge for higher education and all of them have higher participation rates than Britain. In Canada, for instance, the figure is 44 per cent. Here, it is 33 per cent.

I am with David Blunkett on this one. The Education Secretary is adamant that the changes will not lead to a decline in undergraduate numbers and history suggests he is probably right. In the early 1960s one in live in a world dominated by computer nerds

One says that higher education ought to remain free. It encourages more people into the system, thereby producing a better-though government funding has the finer things of life? even though government funding has declined, in real terms, by £4bn a year. Over the last decade, public funding per student

has fallen by 25 per cent.

1 am less persuaded, however, by Mr Blunkett's assurance that his funding revolution will encourage the less well-off to continue into higher education. The explo-sive growth in higher education in the last 30 years has sucked in better off students at twice the rate of students from socioeconomic groups D and E. Saddling the less well off with even bigger debts at the end of their degree courses seems an odd way of encouraging more students from poorer

backgrounds.

What the Government's changes do look like encouraging, however, is a further shift away from arts courses to much more vocational degrees. Goodbye BA in Angio-Saxon History, helio Diploma in Internet Studies. It is surely not a coincidence that the biggest increases in vacancies this year are for courses such as business studies and engineering. That will surely please employers who have long argued that improving the education system and making it more rele-vant to the world of work would make the biggest single contribution to Britain's competitiveness.

Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

The closes other countries out to the delted baseline (Germany)

the more likely they are to join EMU.

TOWARDS ENIL! If the line moves towards the German base line it means

a single currency with Germany in ten years' lime.

the line will move away from the base.

The Independent asked analysis from:

Investors no longer require such a high praceum for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident this currency won't devake against the Mark. In other words, they think that country will be leaked into

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won? he in EMU, that it will

Mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds; so

**When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.** 

Nation Energia, Paine Webber; ABN Amra, JP Morgan, Devische Morgan Granfell

Saloman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capal, UBS

Is Tony Dye about to be vindicated at long last? Yesterday's 125.5 point fall in the Footsie was the biggest since Black Monday in 1987. Not, of course, in percentage terms, because the Index has more than doubled since then. Anything less than a 100 point retreat is regarded with indifference these days. The other notable aspect about yesterday's market gyrations was how the sec-ond liners that make up the FTSE-250 actually rallied as the Footsie headed south. Perhaps this is not surprising since the 250 contains many of the engineers and exporters who have begun to benefit from

sterling's depreciation at last. Nevertheless, investors have been warned. The survey this week of investment intentions by Merrill Lynch clearly showed an increasing number of institutions baling out of equities and into cash and gilts. They are sceptical about the ability of central banks on either side of the Atlantic to keep interest rates down and worried about the toll that slowing economic growth will take on equity markets.

Both the Dow and the Footsie have retreated since breaking through the magic 8,000 and 5,000 levels respectively. It will require substantially bigger falls than yes-

terday's to put Mr Dye's PDFM back in the money but maybe things are moving in his direction at last. Yields are becoming ridiculously meagre and the pressure is for higher interest rates while the UK market still does not seem to have factored in the abolition of tax credits. Against that background, ordinary investors could easily be forgiven for following the lead of the professionals and moving out of equities. moving out of equities.

On the rare occasions that I have used the National Rail Enquiry Service I have found it to be efficiency and politeness personified. Apparently that has not been the experience of much of the rest of the country. According to the Rail Regulator John Swift, 20 per cent of enquiries go unanswered and, when callers do get through, they are directed as often as not to services which do not exist and stations which are not open. That's private enterprise for you. Even so it is a big improvement on the figures for April when barely half of all calls were being an-swered. Mr Swift has now come up with a sliding scale of fines which, by my calculation, will land the privatised train operators with a bill of £6m a month if their performance slips back to its level in the Spring. Even this is peanuts, of course, compared with the £8bn of subsidies the industry is receiving - enough to pay the NRES's fines for the next 100 years, in fact.

### Alliance plans acquisitions or share buy-backs

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

Alliance & Leicester, the former building society that floated as a bank in April, said it was on the lookout for acquisitions but promised shareholders it would ack shares if it failed to find anything to buy at a sensible price. Maiden interim figures yesterday showed it is awash with surplus funds.

Passing its first test since joining the stock market, A&L beat market forecasts with firsthalf profits before tax of £178m. That represented a fall of 3 per cent on last year's £192m, but included a £28m one-off bit for the costs of conversion and

Peter White, chief executive, said the results provided a firm hase for the rest of the year, but he warned that strong competition in the personal financial services market was likely to

He added that the level at the urrent cycle would be cruthe current recovery in the housing market became.

While the group confirmed it

cash in acquisitions or organic growth, it ruled out a purchase overseas. Last week rival Wool-

making well-priced acquisitions in the UK and was considering "cherry-picking" in France, where valuations are lower.

Richard Pym, finance director, said the rationale behind any deals would either be to acquire an expanded customer base into which it could push its existing products or a company that would expand its fledgling interests in products such as unit trusts and life

Alliance & Leicester has focused on growing its unsecured lending business, which it believes is of better quality than those of its peers, and it would be keen to push that product through a broader customer base. During the half year, outstanding unsecured loans grew to £1.03bn from a market share of 14.1 per

Mr Pym refused to commit which interest rates peaked in himself to a timetable for any share buy-back should those cial in determining how strong sorts of acquisitions not be possible, but he admitted that. with a capital ratio of almost

wich said it foresaw problems compared to its total assets, stands at around 14 per cent at A&L, compared with an industry average of about 8 per cent and as low as 6.5 per cent in some cases. An acquisition would be one way of reducing the ratio, while handing cash back to shareholders through a special dividend or share buyback is another.

Continued diversification increased profits from outside A&L's core mortgages and sav-ings business to 38 per cent of the total. That was in spite of an increase in gross mortgage advances, which rose 53 per cent to £1,422m in the six months to June, giving A&L a 4.5 per cent

Profits were given a boost by a reduction in the ratio of costs to income, which slipped from 63.9 per cent to 61.6 per cent. £833m. Gross advances during the half of £464m represented earnings per share were 19.4 per cent (20.6p), representing post-tax return on capital of 17.4 per cent.

The shares closed 8p higher on the day at 620.5p, against the trend of the market and the rest of the banking sector, as analysts focused on the potential for

### **Possible** rate rise boosts the mark

**Clifford German** 

The seasonal full has descended on Europe, with few discernible events to move markets or sentiment in the past week.

The City dismissed media reports that President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl would use the possibility of persuading the UK to join EMU in the first wave as an excuse to delay the starting date, according to Martin Brooks at Goldman Sachs.

The other main talking point remains the possibility of a rise in German interest rates at the weekly repo tender on Tuesday or after the Bundesbank's next council meeting on Thursday.

On purely domestic grounds a rise in German rates could soon be justified as the recent export-led recovery broadens into an upturn in investment, with the possibility of a consumer boom when consumer taxes are cut next year, according to Philip Chitty at ABN Amro. But it would put heavy pressure on France and Italy to follow suit and neither needs a rise in rates on domestic grounds. Avinash Persaud, currency expert at JP Morgan thinks a rise in German rates is not yet justified.

Fortunately, even the possibility of a rise in German rates has helped to achieved the desired effect of strengthening the mark against the dollar.

the end of January 1998 with

Nine West is one of America's

largest footwear retailers. It al-

ready owns fashion shoe group

The sale of the concession

business is the first disposal

since company doctor David

James moved into Sears' tron-

bled British Shoe Corporation

subsidiary in the spring. He is

finalising the group's business

plan to present to the Sears

Though Sears says it is keep

ing its options open, City analysts expect formats like Shoe

Express, Shoe City, Dolcis and

board in the autumn.

Pied a Terre in the UK.

the loss of 950 jobs.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Amault trades Guinness for Grand Met

Bernard Arnault, the combative Frenchmen, has sold 10 million more shares in Guinness, raising £58.5m to fund another stock market assault on Grand Metropolitan in his protracted campaign to scupper the £23bn merger between the two UK drinks companies. LVMH, Mr Arnault's French luxury goods group, has reduced his stake in Guinness to 11.47 per cent and holds 11.1 per cent of Grand Met.

#### Halifax lifts mortgage rate

Halifax, the UK's largest lender, is increasing its mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 8.45 per cent in the wake of the latest quarter-point rise in base rates to 7 per cent. The new rate will apply with immediate effect for new borrowers and from 1 September for existing customers. Nationwide Building Society has also lifted its mortgage rate from September to 8.1 per cent from 7.85

#### ABI Leisure hit by strong pound

ABI Leisure, the caravan manufacturer, issued its second profits warning in as many weeks and parted company with chief executive David Carrick. ABI expects to show a small loss for the year to August due to the strength of sterling. It blamed a breach of internal controls which led to inadequate hedging of its cur-rency exposure and the retention of excess currency balances. The shares slumped 27p to 38p.

### Ellis and Donaldsons discuss merger

Richard Ellis and Donaldsons, the property consultants, have confirmed they are in talks that may lead to a merger. The combined group would have a turnover of nearly £50m and employ more

### **Graystone takeover talks terminated**

Graystone, the engineer, said discussions regarding a possible takeover offer for the company had been terminated, just 24 hours after announcing that talks were continuing. It said negotiations for the sale of the group's engineering companies were continuing. The group also said it expected pre-tax profits for the year to June to be materially below market expectations. The shares tumbled 42p to 39.5p.

### General Cable losses double

General Cable, the telecommunications and cable TV group, announced losses for the six months to June doubled to £25.7m. Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman, said the overall progress achieved in the first half "has been good in the face of a number of significant challenges".

The number of residential telephone lines connected increased by 27 per cent to 187,700, while business exchange lines connected rose by 53 per cent to 40,900. The number of cable television customers increased by 25 per cent to 156,000. However the net churn rate, the number of people deserting the group, jumped from 23 to 37 per cent.

### Portmeirion warns of slow progress

Shares in Portmeirion Potteries fell 65p to 430p after it warned that trading for the second half of 1997 would be difficult and profits for the year as a whole were likely to show little progress over 1996. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose 9 per cent to £2.745m thanks to strong US sales but this was primarily due to a one-off celebration for the 25th anniversary of the group's premier pattern, Botanic Garden. UK sales fell and the strength of sterling constrained export sales.

### Bunzl poised for £55m acquisition

Bunzl, the paper and plastics group, is poised to buy Unisource's grocery supply businesses for a cash consideration of around \$88m (£55m). The business is involved in the distribution and supply of disposable products to supermarkets and has annual sales of more than \$300m but made an operating loss of \$2.9m in the nine months to June. Bunzl will finance the acquisition from its own resources and the deal should be completed by the end of

#### what probability they placed on EMU starting on time. twice the industry average, continued cost-cutting and would prefer to invest its extra A&L was under some pressure cross-selling of products. The Probability EMU starts on time: dividend was raised 18 per cent to take some action. Probability EMIL is delayed: Tier 1 capital, which is a to 6.4p, around a third of the ex-Probability EMU never happens: measure of a bank's core capital pected payout for the full year. NIE steps up battle with Ofreg

Nige! Cope City Correspondent

Northern Ireland Electricity sain yesterday it would seek a judicial review of its regulator's refusal to accept the Monopo-lies and Mergers Commission's proposals on electricity price controls. The move marks the latest stage in a simmering row between the company and Ofreg, the regulator, which is demanding much larger price

NIE said it had made its decision "with regret" and admitted that the prolonged period of uncertainty was uncome for both shareholders and customers.

It follows an unprecedented

cost 50p per minute.

move by Douglas McIldoon, the director general of Ofreg, to overrule the MMC's report and press ahead with licence changes that would lead to big-ger price cuts. Northern Ireland's decision

to go to the court is also unprecedented and will act as a test case on whether the MMC is the final arbitrator in disputes between privatised utilities and

their regulators. NIE said yesterday: "The director general referred the matter of NIE's price controls to the MMC for resolution and the MMC rejected his original proposals. The MMC's conclusions were quite specific - addressing both public interest issues and the needs of the com-

pany to go forward. NIE be-lieves that the director general has no right to disregard these conclusions.

The matter will go before the High Court in Belfast by the end of next month. It is likely to be six to eight weeks before a ruling is made and if the matter goes to appeal it could push the final outcome into next year.

Under proposals made by Mr McIldoon, the revenue capability of Northern Ireland Electricity would have been reduced by £36.5m over the next five years. The company com-plained that this would hamper its ability to invest in the network and extend it to more remote parts of the province. Electricity bills are high in

Northern Ireland but NIE blames this on the high cost of generation.

day: "If you're going to have a system of arbitration in which the MMC acts as the referee then the referee's decision should be final." It said the director general's challenge to the integrity of the MMC process is inherently very damaging to the prospects of an orderly sys-

tem of regulation". The regulator had no further comment yesterday, saying Mr Mclldoon was on leave. The MMC also declined to com-

Northern Ireland Electricity's shares closed 8.5p higher at

### Sears break-up under way with £9m sale

N<del>i</del>gel Cope

65%

32%

Sears, the troubled retail conclomerate, made its first move in the expected break-up of its shoe business yesterday when it sold 65 department store concessions to American Group

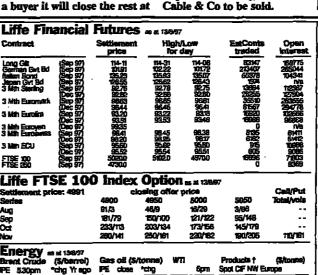
Nine West's Shoe Studio

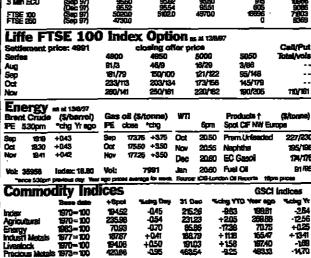
(65% lest week)

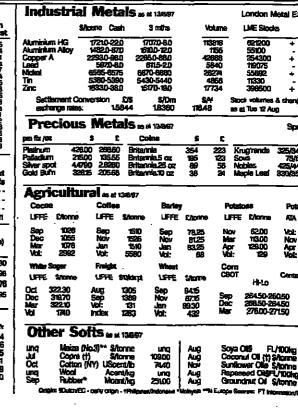
(32% last week)

Group, is paying £9m for net assets of £11m. The deal will protect 800 jobs in the 65 largest concessions which will be transferred to Nine West at the end of this month. Discussions are continuing to

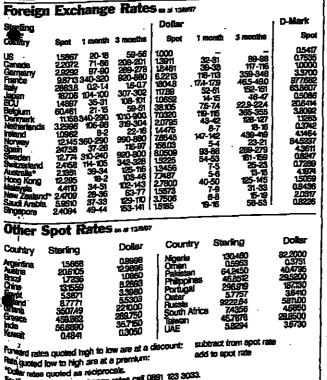
sell the remaining 150 concessions. But if Sears cannot find a buyer it will close the rest at

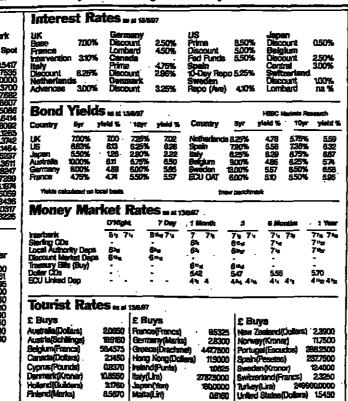






CMS







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ith the new league season now underway, a vast array of footballing talent is on parade for the first time.

Arsenal and Chelsea have been the busiest clubs in the overseas market, with Marc Overmars the most expensive re-cruit. The two London clubs can be expected to mount a strong challenge. Liverpool and Newcastle United will also

be fighting for the title. However, Alex Ferguson's men will again be the team to bear. With the signings of Teddy Sheringham and Celio Silva from Brazil they are again the bookmakers' favourites

Can you keep up with the changes? The Independent and Independent on Sunday are giving you the chance. With a budget of £40 million, can you come up with a team to top them all in the Premiership this season?

### HOW TO ENTER.

Firstly you will need to pick your team formation, of course there's your goalkeeper plus you have a choice of four formations for the others in your team.

FORMATION A. 4-4-2 4 Midfielders, 4 Defenders.

3 Midfielders,

4 Defenders,

FORMATION C. 5-3-2 3 Midfielders, 5 Defenders,

FORMATION D. 3-5-2

5 Midfielders. 3 Defenders,

2 Strikers

3 Strikers

2 Strikers

Once you have chosen your formation and team name pick your team of 11 players and 1 manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and their total value must not go over £40million. Having made a note of your team dial our registration hotline. Please try to use a tone telephone one which makes tone noises when you dial, although pulse telephones can be used to register your team. pulse telephones can be used to register your team.



THE ULTIMATE PRIZE

The overall winner, the manager who at the end of the season accrues more points than any other will win a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. With a companion, they will see all the action of a quarter-final and semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's home internationals at Wembley.

Register today, call: UK 0930-525-260 (tone) UK 0930-525-259 (pulse) Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 659

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**HOW TO SCORE** player scores winning goal

Every time one of your players score you get four points.

Every time one of your players score you get four points.

There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e., if there is a one goal difference in the winning goal, i.e., if there is a one goal difference in the winning scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning scoreline, the player somint awarded in addition to stanteam is awarded I bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a passic judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point. be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose:

VALUE

TEAM

CODE PLAYER

VALUE

CODE PLAYER

VALUE

### INDEPENDENT

CODI	E PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER		(£m)				(£m)	,
	GOALE	EEPER			Cox	Bol	2.5	560	Lundekyam Scales	_Sou Tot	1.2 3.4	679 680	Sharpe Ribeiro	Lee Lee	3.5 1.5	845 846	Whelan Huckerby	Cov Cov	3.0 3.5 1.5	
		<del>-</del>		456	Elliot	Bol Bol	3.0 2.0	563 564	Campbell	Tot	4.0	683	Haaland	Lee	2.5	847 848	Soltvedt Lightbourne	Cov Cov	1.5	
300	Seaman	Ars	4.0 1.0	457 458	Fairclough Taggart	Bol	2.5	565	Calderwood	Tot	2.9	684 685	Parker Taylor	Lei Lei	2.5 1.6	849	Dver	Сгу	2.0	_
303 304	Lukic Manninger	Ars Ars	3.0	459	Bergsson	Bol	1.5	566	Austin	Tot	2.2 1.6	686	Izzett	Lei	2.1	850	Freedman	Сгу	2.0	
304	Bosnich	AV	4.0	460	Duberry	Chel	3.0	567 568	Edinburgh Carr	Tot Tot	1.2	687	Lennon	Lei	3.2	853	Ndah	Cry	1.0	
306	Oakes	ΑV	1.5	463	Petrescu	Che	3.0 3.0	569	Mabbutt	Tot	1.5	688	Guppy	Lei	1.7	854	Shipperley	Cry Der	2.0 2.5	
307	Watson	Bar	1.0	464 465	Lambourde Leboeuf	Che Che	5.0	570	Dicks	WH	. 3.5	689	Barnes	Liv	3.0 5.2	855 856	Ward Sturridge	Der	5.0	
308	Lesse	Bar	1.0 5.2	466	Sinclair	Che	2.5	573	Rieper	WH	2.7	690 693	Redknapp McManaman	Liv Liv	· 5.9	857	Wanchope	Der	3.0	
309 330	Flowers Filan	Bla Bla	1.5	467	Daish	Cov	2.7	574	Hall	WH WH	3.0 1.5	694	Thomas	Liv ·	3.0	858	Ferguson	Eve	6.5	
333	Branagan	Bol	1.2	468	Shaw	Cov	2.2 2.2 1.5	575 576	Potts Ferdinand	WH	2.5	695	Leonhardsen	Liv	4.0	859	Barmby	Eve	4.5	
334	De Goey	Che	1.0	469	Burrows	Cov Cov	2,2 1:5	577	Impey	wн	. 2.2	696	Giggs Beckham	Man	7.4	860	Deane	Lee Lee	3.0 1.5	
335	Grodas	Che	1.0	470 473	Haworth Edworthy	CP	1.5	578	Turner	WH	2.0	697		Man Man	7.0 7.0	863 864	Lilley Hasslebank	Lee	3.0	
336	Ogrizovic	Cov	2.2 1.0	474	Gordon	CP	2.0	579	Perry ·	Wim	4.0	698 699	Keane Butt	Man	7.0	865	Claridge	Lei	3.5	
337 338	Hedman Nash	Cov CP	1.0	475	Muscat	CP	1.0	580	- Cunningham	Wim Wim	: 1.5 < 2.0	700	Poborski	Man	3.5	866	Heskey	Lei	5.5	
339	Day	ČP	1.0	476	Tuttle	CP	2.0	583 584	Thatcher McAllister	Wim	1.5	703	Lee	New	3.6	867	Fowler	Liv	9.5	
340	Poom	Der	1.2	477	Linighan	CP	2.0 3.0	585	Kimble	Wim	1.5	704	Batty	New	3.8	868	Berger	Liv	4.0	
343	Hoult	Der	1.6	478	Roberts Hreidresson	CP CP	1.0,	300		".·.	:	705	Gillespie	New New	2.5 2.0	869	Owen Scholes	Liv Man	2.5 6.0	
344	Southall	Eve	3.0 1.5	479 480	Stimac	Dег	3.3	l .	MID	RIELD	<u> </u>	706 707	Beardsley Ketsbara	New	2.0	873	Cole	Man	6.2	
345 346	Gerrard Martyn	Eve Lee	3.3	483	C Powell	Der	1.8			- A	2.5	708	Blinker	SW	2.5	874	Solskjaer	Man	7.0	
340	Beeney	Lee	1.2	484	Laursen	Der	1.5	603	Platt Parlout	-Ars Ars	⇒ 2.4	709	Hyde	SW	1.8	875	Sheringham	Man	5.0	
348	Keller	Lei	2.5	485	Eranio	Der	2.5 1.9	605	Vieira	Ars	4.5	730	Whittingham	SW	1.7	876	Nevland	Man	2.0	
349	Poole	Lei	1.5	486 487	Phelan Short	Eve Eve	3.0:	606	Overmars	Ars	6.0	733	Carbone	SW . Sou	3.0 2.4	877 878	Shearer Asprilla	New New	10.0 7.4	
350	James	Liv Liv	3.5 1.0	488	Waison	Eve	2.7-	607	M Rodrigue	z -: Aıs	2.0 1.9	734 735	Magilton Slater	Sou	1.5	879	Ferdinand	New	5.0	
353 354	Warner Schmeichel	Man	5.5	489	Unsworth	Eve	3.0	608	Taylor	AV AV	3.2	736	Oakley	Sou	1.2	880	Tomasson	New	4.0	
355	Van Der Go		1.2	. 490	Hinchcliffe	Eve	3.5	630	Townsend Draper	ΑV	4.1	: 737	Anderton	Tot	6.0	883	Gudjonsson	New	2.0	
356	1.	New	2.5	493	Bilic	Eve Lee	4₋0 <u>/</u> 3.6 }	633	- Marcelle	Bar	2.0	738	Fox	Tot	3.5 3.2	884 885	Humphreys	She	2.5	
357	Hislop	New	2.5	494 495	Kelly Wetherall	Lee	2.5	634	Bullock	Bar	1.2	739	Howells Ginola	Tot Tot	3.5	886	Booth Hirst	She She	3.5 3.5	
358	Pressman	SW Sou	3.0 1.8	496	Molenaar	Lee	2.5	635	Redfearn	Bar	1:5 1:2	-740 -743	Sinton	Tot	3.0	887	Le Tissier	Sou	7.0	
359 360		Sou	1.0	497	Dorigo	Lee	1.2	636	Eaden Tinkler	:Baт Bar	10	744	Nielsen	Tot	2.5	888	Evans	Sou	1.5	i
363		Tot	3.4	498	Robertson	Lee	2.5 2.2	637 638		Bla	3.0	745	Williamson	WH	2.0	889	Ostenstad	<u>S</u> ou	3.2	
364	Bardsen	Tot	1.0	499 500	Walsh Whitlow	Lei Lei	1.2	639	Wilcox	Bla	3.0	746	Hughes	WH WH	2.0 2.5	890 893	Armstrong Iversen	Tot	5.9	
365		WH	1.5 2.7	503	Elliott	Lei	1.2	640	McKinlay	Bla	2.2 3.4	747 748	Moncur Bishop	WH	2.5	894	Hartson	Tot WH	4.0 5.0	
366	Sullivan	Wim	2.7	504	Watts	Lei	1.6	643	Sherwood	Bla Bla	3.0	749	Berkovic	WH	2.5	895	Kitson	WH	3.5	
	DEF	ENDER	S	505	Wright	Liv	3.0 3.0	644 645	Flitcroft Francsen	Bol	1.5	7,50	Lomas	WH	3.0	896	Holdsworth	Wim	3.5	i
				506 507	Ruddock Harkness	Liv Liv	1.2	646	Thompson	Bol	2.8	753	Jones	Wim Wim	2.8 3.1	897 898	Ekoku	Wim	4.0	
400		Ars	2.5 2.0	508	Kvarme	Liv	2.5	647	Pollock	Bol	1.2= `	754 755	Earle Ardley	Wim	2.0	899	Gayle Euell	Wim Wim	4.0 1.5	
403 404		Ars Ars	4.2	509	Bjornebye	Liv	2.5	648	Sellars Guilitt	Bol Che	1.5 4.4	756	Fear	Wim	2.0				1.5	,
40:	Grimendi	Ars	2.7	530	Matteo	Liv Liv	3.0 3.7	649		Che	5.0	757	Hughes	Wim	2.0	1	MAN	AGERS		
406	6 Winterburn		2.5 2.5	533 534	McAteer G Neville	Man	4.2	653		Che	3.7	1	· cmn	IKERS		900	W		<del></del>	
40		Ars Ars	4.5	535	P Neville	Man	4.2 4.2 2.5	654	Newton	Che	2.4 1.0	<b>!</b> .	SIK	IKEKS		903		Ars AV	7.5 5.0	
409 409		Ars	4.5	536	Irwin	Man	2.5	655 656		Che Che	3.0	800	Bergkamp	Ars	7.5	904	Wilson	Ват	2.0	
430		ΑV	3.0	537		Man Man	3.0 3.5	657		Cov	1.8	803	Wright	Ars	7.2	905	Hodgson	Bla	5.0	j
43:	3 Southgate	AV	5.2	538 539	May Johnsen	Мар	3.5	658	Richardson		2.4	804		T Ars	2.0 6.7	906		Bol	2.5	5
43	4 Ehiogu	AV AV	3.0 1.2	540		Man	3.5	659		Cov	3.0 2.4	805 806	Yorke Joachim	AV '	2.4	907		Che	4.5	5
43: 43:		AV	3.0	543	Albert	New	4.1	660		Cov Cov		807	Collymore	ΑV	8.1	909		Cov Cry	3.0 2.0	<i>)</i> 3
43		ΑV	2.2	544	- 1	New New	3.7 3.0	664		Der	1.2	808	Wilkinson	Bar	1.2	930	Smith .	Der	2.0	í
43		ΑV	2.2	545		New	3.3	665		Der	3.0	809		Bar	1.5	933		Eve	2.5 3.5	5
43	9 Moses	Bar	1.5	546 547	_ 4 1	New	2.2	666	D Powell	Der	1.2	830 833	Hristov Sutton	Bar Bla	1.5 4.5	934 935		Lee	3.5	5
44		Bar Bar	2.0 1.0	548		S₩	2.2 1.9	667		nan Der Der	1.6 1.2	834	Gallacher	Bla	3.0	936		Lei Liv	4.5	
44 44		Bar	1.0	549		SW	1.9	668		Der	2.0	835	Dahlin	Bla	4.0	937		Man	7.0 9.0	
44		Bla	3.4	550	Atherton	SW.	2.5	670	Parkinson	Eve	1.8	836	McGinlay	Bol	2.2	938	B Dalglish	New	7.0	
44	6 Le Saux	Bla	5.0	. 553 554		SW	1.6	673	Grant (	Eve	2.2	837		Bol	2.7	939	Pleat	She	4.0	
44	7 Coleman	Bla Bla	3.0 4.4	555		Ś₩	1.5	674		Eve Eve	2.0 2.5	838 839	Zola Vialli	Che Che	9.0 3.5	940		Sou	2.5	5
44	8 Hendry	Bla	1.9	556	Monkou	Sou	1.7 2.5	675		Eve	2.7	840		Che	4.4	944		Tot	4.5	5
44 45		Bla	2.0	557	Dodd.	Sou	1.5	677		Lee	3.0	843	Tore Andre	Flo Che	3.0	945		WH Wim	3.: 4.:	3 5
45 45		Bla	3.0 2.5	558 559	Benali Van Gobbel	Sou Sou	1.5	678		Lee	1.8	844	Dublin	Cov	3.5	i	<b></b>	*******	. 4	و

Let's make things better PHILIPS

ussell

Russell in the

old routine

# England toy with changes for Oval

Register today, call:

- ...

Cricket Correspondent

What to do if you are an England selector once the biggest prize has already gone? Cull those who have failed to retain the Ashes and experiment wildly to see how up and coming players respond to the Test arena? Or try to restore a semblance of pride and faith, by sticking with those you have already

played during the summer? Ideally, with a demanding tour of the West Indies ahead, the squad for next week's sixth and final Comhill Test should ipmprise a bit of both; a comromise that will give those on

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Hove Gloucestershire 291-8

` ~ \_ <u>\*e</u>

There is no better county

ground than Hove and this was

a deliciously typical day. The

seagulls screeched, the pitch had

enough in it to keep the seam

bowlers interested and Sussex

became the next in a long line

of counties to be thwarted by

Far from being demoralised

by their defeat in the NatWest

semi-final, Sussex bowled and

fielded like a side which scent-

ed Championship points even

if their only purpose is to keep

them from the foot of the table.

Gloucestershire, who are third

in the table, found themselves

at 119 for 5 in mid-afternoon

ing recruit, Alex Edwards, had

grade an excellent impression.

le had picked up two good wickets and a splendid diving

catch at mid-on after the ball

had ricocheted off the bowler.

He typified the great spirit of

This stems most of all from

enthusiasm which embraces

Hove in spite of all Sussex's

the Committee Room where the

new chairman, the former cap-

and Sussex's newest seam bowl-

After winning the toss,

Jack Russell with the bat.

the fringes – as the Hollioake brothers were – a tuste of life in the cauldron against the

most gladiatorial of opponents.
Continuity is fine if you are
breeding poodles, however, but
it takes little account of established players losing confidence, as some batsmen had done before Trent Bridge.

You only need to have witnessed the dire form of Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe to know that both could have been left out at Nottingham. Neither were and to confound those who felt they should have been, the Surrey pair notched up the two highest scores of the match. Was it a coup for continuity, though?

despot, dedicated to rebuilding

A Committee Room which

boasts portraits and pho-tographs of Ranji, Duleep, CB Fry and Sir Charles Aubrey

Smith, speaks of the rich tradi-

tion which Sussex must try and

ter lunch, an elderly and dis-

tinguished member said quite

clearly: "Put Maurice Tate on at

once." Maurice Tate bowled his

last over for Sussex in 1937. It

when Matthew Windows drove

all round one which came back

at him. Nick Trainor then

pushed forward to Amer Khan

(leg breaks) and was caught be-

hind. And Matthew Church

straight-drove Khan who went

for a high catch tipping it over

the bar and Edwards reacted

square-cut Edwards to back-

ward point and Mark Alleyne

was bowled off the inside edge

driving at Mark Robinson. On

his 34th birthday, Russell then

established squatters rights at

one end, nudging and nurdling

At the other, Robert Dawson

played some pleasant strokes, es-

pecially off the front foot, against

bowlers who slightly lost heart.

Dawson and Russell had put on

After lunch, Tim Hancock

fast at mid-on.

in his usual way.

Gloucestershire reached 32

was that sort of a day.

When sea fret came down af-

Sussex cricket.

runs, Stewart's return to opening the innings has caused more problems than it has solved and two players, Mark Butcher and Mark Ealham, had to be drooped to facilitate the move.

Fit as he is for a 34-year-old, keeping wicket and opening the innings is not a long-term option. Unless the selectors are going to demand the impossible from Stewart this winter, he should revert back to batting at either three or six.

No surprise, then, to find that David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, has been watching Steve James, Glamorgan's opening batsman, at Worcester.

perhaps deserves to be given a chance. Alternatively, there will be many who feel Mark Butcher, dropped after Headingley, has done little wrong, other than to improve gradually.

The one setback with having James resume the opening part-nership he forged with Michael Atherton in their days at Cambridge University is that both are accumulators who can get bogged down. With Nick Knight still indisposed by a broken knuckle, Butcher would probably be the sounder choice, though his inclusion would mean leaving one of the Hol-lioakes out, close to sacrilege in front of a parochial Oval crowd.

Ramprakash, Under consideration for the last Test, Ramprakash will almost certainly be included this time, probably at the expense of John Crawley, whose lack of a big first-innings score has made him vulnerable to the selectorial axe.

The bowling, inspired on oc-casion in the last Test, is likely to provide little change other than in the spin department. Having missed out on five Tests in a row, Phil Tufnell's left-arm spin will surely prevail this time; if only to offer the Aussies something other than Robert Croft's off-spin to cope with. With Darren Gough unlikely to have fully recovered from his

Another in the runs is Mark knee injury and Dominic Cork probably not quite ready for a return to the big time, the pace trio of Andy Caddick, Devon Mal-colm and Dean Headley ought to remain intact.

The same cannot be said for Australia, who suddenly find themselves three pace bowlers short. Paul Reiffel (who returns to see his pregnant wife) Jason Gillespie (an aggravated back injury) and Brendon Julian (cracked wrist) will all be missing. What will not be absent is their collective determination to beat England for a fourth time. ENGLAND (possible around v Australia, shift)
Test, The Owni, 21 August). M A Atheror,
M Burcher, A J Stewart, N Hussen, G PTnorpe, M R Ramprakash, A J Hollocke, B C Hollocke, R D B Croft, A R Caddick, B C HolHeadley, D E Malcolm, P C R Tufnel.

Sciandri and **Boardman set** for hard slog

ROBIN NICHOLL

The line between misery and triumph is a fine thread in major bike racing, and Sunday's British round of the World Cup, the Rochester Interna-tional Classic in Kent, is sure to

wang that thread. Rochester's most celebrated resident, Charles Dickens, would have found several storylines somewhere among a record line-up of 152 riders who endure a season stretching from February to October.

Max Sciandri, however, would rather not relate too much about last year in Leeds. With only Andrea Ferrigato to beat he made a hash of his opportunity for a second victory in the British round, and went missing when it was time to face the public on the podium.

As the embarrassment faded, Sciandri, British by birth and racing licence but still proudly Italian, could claim that a first and a second in consecutive years is hardly failure.

Similarly there was his Atlanta experience when faced with two to beat for Olympic gold in the road race, Sciandri was outflanked. It was still Britain's first Olympic road race medal for 40 years.

Winning is what matters, and Sciandri will be motivated for his one and only appearance be-fore "home" crowds when the Classic leaves the shadow of Rochester Castle.

This year the Cup scene has switched from the Yorkshire moorlands to the Garden of England where point-pickers may find the flatter terrain yields more for faster finishers than hard sloggers.

Dickens campaigned in his novels against suffering and misery. He wrote Hard Times and Sunday will provide more as the 242.3 kilometre (150 mile) race unfolds on the roads of Kent, but Chris Boardman has had harder times, and they are still not over.

City centre-timetable

enters finishing circuit. 10.50

Samba group and Brazilian

dancers in concert. 11.15 in-

victa Rig Show commences.

12.00 Signing on for Rochester City Centre Grand Prix. 12.30 City Centre Grand Prix starts.

13.30 City Centre Grand Prix fig.

ishes, 13.40 Samba Banga Melidown in concert, 14.00

Rochester International Classic

live on giant screen. 14.12 Race Caralcade arrives 15.04

Rochester International Classic

by Royal Navy Swordfish and

Sukhoi Aerobatic Duo.

Rebuilding after injuring his neck and pulling out of the Tour de France. Boardman has been training in North Wales this

Two days after his Rochester appearance, Boardman starts the four-day Tour du Limousin in France then goes on to next weekend's World Cup round, the Grand Prix Suisse in Zurich. His real goal is the world time

trial championship in Spain in October, and before that three exacting weeks in the Tour of Spain. It was in Spain last Sunday that Rolf Sorensen snatched

back the Cup lead as he stepped up his hunt for points. "I am going all out in the August races. After that I will know what my chances are, said the Dane. Apart from Sunday's race he has another August opportunity in the GP Suisse. He has taken points from all six rounds,

him from the top position in Twice he has finished third overall, and in 1991 a Tour de France crash ended his hopes of retaining the Cup leader's jer-

and leads by 16 from Italy's Michele Bartoli, who nudged

Sorensen's need to pile up the points is matched only by the desire of the world champion, Johan Museeuw, for victory. His dreams of a hat-trick in the series faded rapidly when the Belgian scored in only two of the earlier rounds.

Bjarne Riis, too, has endured the highs and lows. A year after he was hailed as Denmark's first Tour de France winner, the Dane suffered a stomach ailment that brought him close to quitting the 1997 Tour.

ROCHESTER FACT FILE

08.15 Signing on at race start, arrival on the course

the Esplanade in Rochester (time given is for the main field; city centre, 09-20, Riders as the cavalizate will arrive 20

RACE START. 10.30 Bollywood 9.50 High Halstow 10.04 Sta-Band in concert. 10.22 Race re-tion Road 10.15 Brompton

semble at start line 09:30 minutes earlier)

He comes to Rochester with a Cup victory in April's Amstel Gold race, but little hope of another 100 points maximum after an exhausting Tour. There is a sad end, too, for

the Classic organisers. After nine years Britain is losing its place on the Cup calendar to a German race.

Estimated times of

the cavalcade will arrive 20

Farm Road, 10.22 Back into the

Esplanade (sprint). 16,25 Shorts

Way 10.35 Burham Village.

10.45 Aylesford Village, 10.53

Tonbridge Road (A26), 11.01

Ewell Lane (B2163), 11.14

Maripit 11.20 Sutton Vallance.

11.49 Tenterden 12.04 Wit-

tersham. 12:17 Appledore.

12.30 A2070. 12.36 St Mary

in the Marsh 12.46 New-

church, 13.00 Lower Wall Road.

13.06 Lympne Hill (climb).

#### yesterday during the first of five one-day internationals. England, wearing trousers for the first time in their 70-year history, scored 227 for 6 in their 50 overs. Metcalfe top scored with 51 not out and there were other notable tain, off-spinner and ever-ebul-120 when Russell was lbw half contributions from the openers Plimmer (47) and Edwards (45). The tourists, in reply, could manage only 148 for 9, fient Robin Marlar, presides like forward to one which Robinson England ending up easy winners by 79 runs Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport some modern day benevolent brought back into him. Saglain sublime among the ridiculous

DAVID ITEMETTAN

reports from Lord's

The sublime was confined to the odd moment for Surrey, most notably Saglain Mushtau's first first-class hat-trick; the ridiculous dogged Middlesex's batsmen for much of a bizarre afternoon, during which they tossed away their wickets like so much rubbish.

And all this following a morning when the position of the pitch, nearer The Oval than the centre of the Lord's square. contributed to the conversation around the ground, as well as

to a steady flow of boundaries. The proximity of the Tavern boundary brought to mind an incident involving Ray Illingworth some 20 seasons ago. Then, with the strip in the same position, Illingworth, as Leicestershire captain, paced out 45 vards to the rope - five vards fewer than the regulations stipulate - and refused to play on

it. Another was duly prepared. There was no rolling of a new itch yesterday, just a rolling over by Middlesex, although the Surrey captain, Adam Hollioake. must have been a trifle worried as Mike Gatting and Ownis Shah piled up 104 runs for the third wicket in reasonably untroubled fashion either side of lunch.

They had patiently pushed the score along from a shaky looking 38 when Gatting perished, top-edging an attempted lap to Alistair Brown at short fine leg. By then he had scored the 174th half-century of his first-class career.

His departure marked a slide in Middlesex fortunes. With the next ball a further wicket fell, the 18-year-old Shah being caught by Rupesh Amin, 19, off the 19-year-old Ben Hollioake. Shah had made 44.

There had been a statistically significant clumping pattern to al in East London - and Richard

the fall of the Middlesex wickets, three pairs of them – two in three balls, two in two, and again two in two - a sequence eventually ended by Saqiain's hat-trick.

England's Karen Smithies keeps the South Africans under pressure at Gloucestershire's county ground at Bristol

It was the first for Surrey since Sylvester Clarke's against Essex in 1987, and only the third for the county against Middlesex. The 20-year-old Pakistani offspinner had already accounted for Mark Ramprakash and Keith

Dutch in successive deliveries. The last two balls of his next over saw Keith Brown - who had been responsible for winning the toss because Ramorakash was attending his grandfather's funer-

Johnson depart to careless shots. When Jamie Hewitt pushed the first ball of Saglain's next over into Adam Hollioake's hands at silly mid-on it completed the hat-trick, and it also gave him his third five-wicket haul in successive innings and earned Surrey maximum points. It also heralded a further twist to the tale.

Angus Fraser, the man with they really did not deserve.

### Retiring Athey's iob offer

Round-up

Bill Athey, who announced his retirement yesterday after 21 years in first-class cricket. has been offered a job with

The club's chief executive Tony Pigott, refused to say what the position would entail, but confirmed that the former England batsman had not been offered the post as first-team coach.

That position is vacant following the decision to release Desmond Haynes, who had a year of his three-year contract still to run.

Pigott revealed that the job offer to Athey was made before the former Yorkshire and Gloucestershire man made his announcement to quit.

"We are restructuring both the coaching and marketing departments of the club and we've offered Bill a job in one of these departments," Pigott said.

Athey, 39, has one year of his contract to run and has already gained some experience on the marketing department since moving to Sussex in 1993.

"Bill wants time to consider our offer," added Pigott. "He told me on Wednesday of his decision to retire and I'm not really surprised. He's been around a hell of a long time.

"The timing of an announcement like this is important and he's chosen to call it a day after appearing in a big Nat West Trophy semi final. The England and Wales Cricket Board decided yesterday to hold their own inquiry

into Tuesday's incident between

Glamorgan's Robert Croft and Essex's Mark Ilou. The pair pushed and shoved each other at the end of the day's play in the NatWest Trophy semi-final and they have been fined £1,000 by their respective counties.

It is intended that this inquiry should be conducted as soon as possible," Tim Lamb the ECB chief executive, said.

No date has been fixed for the ECB investigation, but the players could face further sanctions if the Board decide the counties' punishment was too

#### 13.15 Sellindge: 13.34 Petham. 18.47 A28: 13.52 Bilting: 13.55 first passage through city cen-tre. 15.15 Second passage: White Hill (climb). 14:07 Char-15.25 Third passage 15.36 Scheduled race finish 15.45 ing. 14.18 Harnetsham. 14.34 Boxley Hill (climb). 14.50 Cap-Presentations. 16:00 Air Display stone Road, 15.01 Borstal

With Michael Doohan at the head of the procession a festival atmosphere is anticipated at tomorrow's British Grand Prix at Donington, where the Australian is expected to secure his fourth 500cc world title in a row. Doohan, who needs only to

Romboni's Aprilia in 1:33.807. An eighth consecutive pole position appears a firm bet.

Yet Doohan, ever the perfectionist, was unhappy. Unhappy about a circuit that may ensure a slow race tomorrow, he said: "There is no grip. Things are just not all that good out there, although I must say that it seems to be better for me than

The former is pushing hard for a works ride next season while the 21-year-old Robinson is hoping he can turn around a troubled season on the underpowered

Qualifying times, Digest,

#### Charles and T'Aime start to hit it off

15.03 The Esplanade. 15.36

Race finish.

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Hickstead

> Peter Charles and the versatile TAime, who was winner of the Puissance in Dublin last Saturday, gained another victory when winning yesterday's Derby Trial on the second day of the British Jumping Derby meeting. The Irishman won by the smallest possible margin, defeating Britain's William Funnell on Comex by 0.01sec.

TAime has won a variety of classes since Charles teamed up with him for the outdoor shows in June. "He's multi-purpose and, though he hasn't been my favourite horse, he's growing on me," Charles said. The horse's lack of character can be forgotten now that he is winning lasses in the ring.

Charles is a horse dealer as well as the European show jumping champion and T'Aime is likely to change hands soon. "A deal has been agreed but it hasn't yet been finalised," Charles said. The price has not, he says, increased with his successes.

TAime will be ridden by Charles in tomorrow's British Jumping Derby. The rider is not in the least concerned that victory in the trial is the kiss of death in the Derby itself. Only once in its 36-year history (when Ireland's Eddie Macken won

both contests in 1979 on Boomerang) has the trial victor gone on to win the major class. BRITISH HUMPING DERBY MEETING (Hick-stend, Subsect: Derby Trial: 1 Tame (P Charles, II) clear, 49.32.sec; 2 Cornes (W Fun-nel, GB) deer, 49.32.s.; 3 Primme (M Armstrong, GB) 4 faults, 54.32.

Britannic Assurance County Championship

irst day of four: 11.0 Derbyskire v Lancashire

DERBY: Derbyshire (4pts) have see 408 for 9 in their first inslings age Lancashtre won toss DERRYSHIRE - First inning

A S Rollins c Atherton b Martin
M R May c Crawley b Martin
D G Cork c Hegg b Green
K J Barnett c Hegg b Martin Clarke b Austin K M Krikken run out Blackweil c Crawley b Gallian .......4 P A J DeFreitas c Crawley b Shadford 90 Harris not out ..... Malcolm not out .... tras (b1, ib10, nb16) Total (for 9, 104 overs) \_\_\_\_\_408 Felt: 1-14, 2-25, 3-46, 4-99, 5-123, 6-

189, 7-248, 8-372, 9-402. Bowling: Martin 20-6-74-3: Austin 24-7-71-2: Shedford 15-0-108-1; Green 20-18-1-69-0 LANCASHERE: M. A. Athenon, J. E. R. Gel-Crawley, A Fintoff, G D Lloyd, \*M ton, I D Austri, †W K Hegg, P J Mar-Green, D J Shadford. Sc M J Kitchen and J F Steele.

tin,R JGre Hampshire v Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Yorkshire (4pts) have scored 389 for 6 in their first innings against Hampshire (2). Yorkshire won toss



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YORKSHIRE - First Innings M D Moxon c Aymes b Renshar u P Vauehan c Aymes b Savident .....74 tR J Blakey not out ....... To bat: G M Hamilton, P M Hutchison, R

D Stemp.

Bowling: Penshaw 17-3-69-1; Patel 122-39-0; Savutent 18-5-78-2; Udal 37-10114-2; Stephenson 18-4-74-1; Hayden 2-0-11-0. 24-11-0.

HAMPSHIRE: J S Laney, M L Hayden, G
White, R A Smith, M Keech, \*J P Stephenson, †A N Aymes, S D Udal, L Sawdent S
J Renshaw, C Patel.

J Renshaw, C Patel. **Umpires:** J D Bond and B Dudleston Middlesex v Surrey LORO'S: Surrey (4pts), with eight first-hmings wickets standing, are 89 runs behind Middlesex (1).

Middlesex won toss imprakash c A J Hollion

Hollicate 6.5-1-24-1: Saciain 14-2-50-5; Amin 12-4-21-1

G P Thorpe c Remprakesh "A J Holkoake not out .... ¥ (for 2, 31.5 overs) . 1-17, 2-99.

FBIE 1-17, 2-99. To beit: A D Brown, B C Holliceke, C C Lews, t.) N Betty, M P Bicknell, Seqlam Mushtag. R M Ami Impires: G Sharp and J C Balderstone. Nottinghamshire v Somerset

TRENT BRIDGE: Somerset (2pts) have scored 290 for 6 in their first innings nerset won toss

CRICKET SCOREBOARD SOMERSET - First Innings
P D Bowler c Aside b Tolley ........
P C L Holloway c Johnson b Aside ...
S C Ecclestone c Atzaal b Oram .... N Lathwell low b Oram M E Trescothick c Noon b Oram ...

Total (for 6, 104 overs) ......290 Fall: 1-26, 2-33, 3-98, 4-125, 5-136, To bat: K J Shme, Mushtaq Ahmed, A R

Caddick.
Bowling: Franks 21-4-61-0; Oram 19-653-4; Totley 21-6-48-1; Evans 21-7-470; Astie 14-2-35-1; Afzaal 8-1-36-0.
NOTTINGHAMSHEE: M P Downan, R T
Robinson, A A Mettatie, N J Astie, "P Johnson, U Afzaal, C M Totley, HW M Noon, P
J Franks, K P Evans, A R Oram.
Umplines: J H Hampshire and J H Hams. Sussex v Gloucestershire

HOVE: Gloucestershire (2pts) have scored 291 for 8 in their first busings Sloucestershire won toss GLOUCESTERSHIRE - First Innings

M J Church c Edwards b Khan ... R I Dawson c Taylor b Khan ... R P Davis not out .... A M Smith not out ... 

To bet: J Lewis. Bowling: Jarvis 23-4-84-0; Edwards 17-2-48-2; Robinson 25-9-48-3; Khan 17-5-59-3; Bates 13-3-29-0; K Newell 8-3-11-0; Rao 1-0-7-0. S-5-11-0; Nation 1-0-1-0; SUSSEEC, M.T.E. Peirce, R.K.Rao, N.R. Tay-lor, M. Newell, K. Newell, \*†P. Mooras, P.W. Javis, A.A. Khan, J.J. Bates, A.D. Edwards, M.A. Robinson. Umpires: B. Leadbester and K.E. Palmer.

Worcestershire v Giamorgan WORCESTER: Worcestershire (3pts) have scored 342 for 4 in their first in-nings against Glamorgan (1). WORCESTERSHIRE - First Innings S Curtis b Croft . W P C Weston Ibw b Butcher G A Hick c Maynard b Croft G R Haynes c Shaw b Wagar "T M Moody not out

Fell: 1-34, 2-212, 3-295, 4-337.

To bat: D A Leatherdale, V S Solarki, †S J Rhodes, S R Lampat, M M Mirza. Bowling: Waxer 1.8-4-73-1; Wattin 22-4-58-0; Burcher 12-2-52-1; Thomas 14-0-69-0; Croft 30-10-49-2; Dale 8-1-30-0. GLAMORGAR: H Monts, S P James, A Dale, \*M P Maynard, M J Powell, R D B Croft, G P Butcher, \*A D Shaw, S D Thomas, Waqar Younis, S.L. Watkin. Umpires: D.J. Constant and R.A. White.

Tour match

Pakistan A First day of four, includes play tomorrow; CHELMISFORD: First Class Counties XI. with eight first-innings wickets stand-ing, are 113 runs behind Pakistan A.

Paldstan A won toss PAKISTAN A - First Innings Mujahid Jamsheed c Nixon b Welch ...16 îm Elahi c Nacn b Such irfan Razii e Nixon b Bron Ali Hussain Rizvi not out 

FIRST CLASS COUNTIES XI - First J B Lewis b Abdul L Maddy c Qadeer to Abdul ...... L Hemp not out ..... \*A P Gravson not out ......

es: DR Shephard and HD Svd.

Women's One-Day International **England y South Africa** BRISTOL: England won by 79 runs.

South Africa won toss 8 Daniels run out

the hangdog expression, wagged the Middlesex tail putting on 43 runs with last man Phil Tufnell off 48 balls, Fraser thumped three sixes off Saglain

and a couple of fours to ease them to a batting bonus point

Smithles not out ...... ras (ib11, w13, nb1). Falt 1-74, 2-119, 3-119, 4-139, 5-188,

d not bet: C Connor, S Redfern, C Tay-Bowling: Eksteen 10-1-44-1; Davies 8-0-35-0; Kotze 10-0-38-1; Red 8-1-41-1; Price 4-0-17-0; Stoop 10-1-41-0. SOUTH AFRICA A Burger o Cassar b Taylor ......

A Burger o Cassar b Taylor .....

L Korde o Connor b Smithles .....

K Laing low b Redfern ......

H Davies o Connor b Taylor .....

†D Terblanche run out .... R Stoop b Redfern ........ A Kotze not out ...... D Rekt not out ...... Extres (b1, ib3, w3, nb4)... total (for 9, 50 overs) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_148
Fall: 1-5, 2-12, 3-40, 4-41, 5-80, 6-104,
7-104, 8-122, 9-142.
Bowling: Taylor 10-2-36-2; Smrthles
10-5-12-1; Redfern 10-3-21-4; Leng.
7-0-34-0; Reynard 8-0-26-0; Connor
5-2-15-1

Umpires: J West and L Elgar.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Final day of three unless stated): Guildford (Thursday's late result): Surrey 224 N Steind 57: D A Altree 5-34) and 155; Warwickshire 206 and 174 for 3 (W G Khan 98, M A Wagh 57). Warwickshire won by seven wickests. Oalcham Schoot: Lecester 187 and 297 (D Williamson 71); the property of the control of the contr leicester 187 and 297 (D Williamson 71);
Yorkshire 459 for 3 dec and 26-1, Yorkshire won by aline wiclests. Middletonon-See: Sussex 190 and 190 (J R
Carpenter 71, P M Ridgeway 5-83); Lenceshire 341, and 40 for 2. Lancastifice won
by eight wickets. ChesterSeid: Hampshire 107 and 183; Derbyshire 453 for 8
for Derbyshire 453 for 8
for Derbyshire desseries and

Starting today Three days, include play tomorrow; 11.

Tetley's Challenge Series CANTERBURY: Kent v Australia AON RISK TROPHY (one day; 11.0): Se

Tomorrow's fixtures SECOND WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERIV TIONAL (10.45): Yourton: England v South AON RESK TROPHY (one day; 11.0): So

lenient.

#### Doohan has fourth title in his sights Motorcycling Equestrianism

ANDREW MARTIN

finish in the top six to win the championship, delivered all the signs yesterday that victory should be a formality. His Imin 33.579sec was fastest in the opening qualifying session, well ahead of the Italian Doriano

some of the other guys."
France's Jean-Michel Bayle,

riding the British-built Modenas, was fifth fastest after crashing in the morning's open practice session, when he was third fastest. Local interest lies with the 250cc riders Jeremy McWilliams and the luckless Jamie Robinson.

Team Molenaar Suzuki in front of a British crowd.

page 23

### Johnson controls his speed to stay course

As you might expect of a man who has run 200 metres faster than anyone in history, Michael Johnson enjoys the sensation of

Asked to describe his feelings about high velocity after completing his 200/400m double at last year's Olympic Games, he likened it to his childhood experiences in a home-made

Next week Johnson, who makes his first British appearance in five years tomorrow when he races at Crystal Palace, will take command of a far more powerful means of transport. He has been invited by Ferrari's Michael Schumacher to spend a day with the team before the Belgian Grand Prix. and offered the chance of getting behind the

wheel of a Formula One car.

The prospect of athletics' hottest property careering round the Spa-Francorchamps circuit on four wheels can hardly be comforting for Johnson's igent, Brad Hunt.

But Hunt, who has guided Johnson's business career since he arrived on the international scene seven years ago, is sanguine about the runner's plans. He knows that Johnson is not likely to do anything silly.

Control is a key word for him," he said. Johnson will set about driving in the same meticulous fashion in which he prepares for racing on the athletics track, applying power only where it is required.

It is a curiosity that Johnson, who pulled out of a planned appearance at Sheffield after his defeat in Paris, should be mak-

Mike Rowbottom talks to the US medal machine, who runs in Britain tomorrow

British Grand Prix.

His plans to run the 400m there were frustrated by a desire on the part of some British officials to prevent home runners suffering what they feared would be a morale-sapping defeat on the eve of the Atlanta Games. "If I had been one of those runners, I would have felt the decision was disrespectful to me." Johnson said.

Johnson's handlers made it understood that he would never run in Britain while the British Athletic Federation's executive chairman, Peter Radford, remained. Radford's departure this year has opened the way again.

In the wake of his exploits in Atlanta, Johnson has found his life opening out. This year he has devoted much energy to establishing himself as a com-mentator and analyst for NBC television, for whom he worked during rounds when he retained his world 400m title in Athens this month.

On the track, too, this year, it has been a case of what he describes as stepping into the unknown. His experience in Toronto on 1 June, when he pulled up injured during his \$1m (£630,000) One-to-One 150m challenge with Donovan Bailey, disrupted his season.

He still, one suspects, carries a cold anger at the way in which Bailey and emboldened members of the Canadian press haited him after the race, calling him, in Bailey's words, "a

refused to run in last year's faker and a chicken". Johnson is unwilling to be drawn into discussing the matter.

"It's over now," he said. "You put these things behind you and

His injury, to a quadricep muscle, caused him to miss the US trials. But the offer of a wild card by the International Amateur Athletic Federation guaranteed the appearance at the World Championships of the man most capable of boosting

US television ratings.

Before receiving that invitation, he had suffered his first defeat over 400m in eight years, when he finished fifth in his comeback race in Paris on 25 June. Apart from one minor outing in Houston, he was not

able to race again before defending his title in Athens. "This is a very different season from any other I've had," he said. "It has been difficult for me to put a finger on where I'm at at any particular point." It is a fair bet, however, that

Sunday's appearance in the Spar Challenge - his first 200m Britain since his astonishing 19.85sec performance seven years ago on a cool evening in Edinburgh - will not cause him undue stress.

Johnson, who will be 30 next month, has learned how to stay the course over the last decade. It is a virtue he ascribes to only two other 400 metres runners his American colleague, Butch Reynolds, and Britain's Roger

runners - Iwan Thomas, Mark Richardson and Jamie Baulch Johnson replied with characteristic caution.

"In Britain there is always someone who is running well, but the next year they are not there. Someone like Iwan Thomas has run good times, but you have got to be able to continue with the same type of form throughout a championship. As a competitor, I'm sure Iwan's not happy with what happened in Athens."

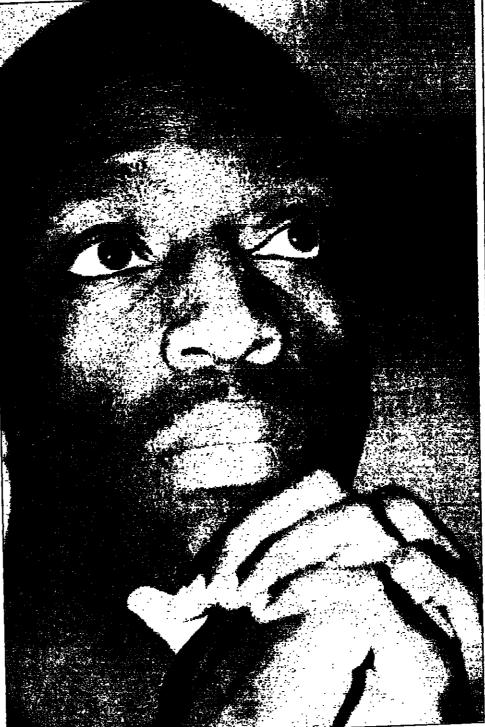
The reason for the high casualty rate in one-lap running, he believes, is inherent in the event. "It is very difficult to train for and to run, too," he

"A lot of guys don't really know what they are doing out there. You can get lucky for a while, but then you have to learn your event. It is more mental than a lot

of people think. Nobody can run the 400 all out. You have to know the pace, know when to give full effort and when less than full. It's difficult for a lot of guys to understand that." Even more difficult for them

to do it in the way he can. Bailey, Johnson's tormentor in Toronto, will also be running tomorrow in a 100m field that includes Britain's 19-year-old world junior record holder,

Dwain Chambers. Cathy Freeman, the first Aboriginal athlete to win a world title, runs the 400m, while Marius Corbett, the South African who was surprise winner of the world javelin title, meets Britain's silver medallist.



## Eagles can spoil Bulls' party

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Those occasional spoilers, the Sheffield Eagles, stand between Bradford and the inevitability of the Stones Super League title tonight.

The Bulls need a point from the Don Valley Stadium to corp. firm what the game in Britan has known for months: that the are out on their own as the most effective team in the country and will be distinguished champions.

Yet the Eagles have a habit of throwing fancied sides out of their stride. Indeed, they are coming off a dramatic victory

over Wigan six days ago.
The difficulty for Sheffield throughout their history has been in purting together two or more results of that calibres although their coach, John Kear argues that they have been a more consistent stumbling block for opponents this season.

Over the last few weeks we've beaten Perth, St Helent and Wigan at home, which I don't think is too bad a record," he said We'll do our best to make Bradford wait for the title."

Sheffield are without Steve Edmed, who has needed a bond graft from hip to neck to save his career and give him the prospect of playing next season, and John Lawless, but will be otherwise at full strength.

Lawless's replacement at hooker is the versatile Darren Turner; of whom Kear says: "He has been a revelation. He's the most improved player at the club and possibly in Super League."
For all that, Bradford, with

Glen Tomlinson and Jeff Wittenberg displacing Paul Longh lin and Tahi Reihana from the starting line-up, should complet the formalities this evening.
The Rughy League has called

in specialist lawyers after making the bizarre discovery that unidentified individuals have registered its name at Companies House.

A company calling itself The Rughy Football League Limit ed was registered last month. days after the RFL discussed a possible stock market flotation;

"It is my duty to protect the name of the Rugby Football League, which has been in existence for more than 70 years. said its chief executive, Mauricu:

### Cardiff's cash faces Ponty's spirit in new-style league when we won the Swalec Cup

**Rugby Union** 

ROBERT COLE

Having been brothers in arms during the Lions' epic Test series triumph in South Africa this summer, Scott Gibbs and Neil Jenkins will be on a collision course this season with the new Welsh Premiership title at stake. Gibbs, who won the man of

the series award in South Africa, says his Swansea side are ready to storm to the title in the slimmed-down, eight-team

But Jenkins, on target with the vital points that guaranteed the Lions the 2-1 series win. warns that Pontypridd will get even better following their first championship triumph last sea-

Cardiff - the multi-million pound television deal with S4C will see a shift to Saturday night matches - should give everyone an idea of how capable Ponty will be at defending their crown. Cardiff are set to arrive with

that steered Brive to the and cohesion last season. Heineken Cup crown last season, but without the Lions scrum-half Rob Howley.

Cardiff, the only team in the Premiership still in dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union over Tonight's big kick-off against the signing of a 10-year loyalty contract, are the team everyone fears. With the wily Australian coach, Alex Evans, back at the helm they could sweep the board, but Cardiff's financial and numerical advantages were their new signings, Gregori Kacala and Tony Rees, both

fresh from the heart of the pack Swansea's spirit of adventure It all adds up to the most ex-

citing title contest since the gues started in Wales back in 1990. Llanelli, back from the brink of bankruptcy, should not be ruled out despite the departure of Ieuan Évans yesterday and you dismiss Ebbw Vale and Newport at your peril.

Gibbs is fiercely committed to the All Whites' cause and wants to add to his honours list. "We have always had the ability comfortably outweighed by to score plenty of tries, but we Ponty's corporate spirit and have also been guilty of giving

too many away. Tightening up our defence is the main goal and we know that we have to get it right because it could take a club with an unbeaten record to lift the title," he said.

Swansea ended up emptyhanded last season, beaten in the cup final and runners-up in the league, but they have a formi-dable look about them. Mike Ruddock has moved on to coach Leinster, but the Kiwi-born John Plumtree inherits a strong squad.

"Everyone knows Mike Ruddock did a brilliant job for the club but John, our new director have over the last two years from a good run in Europe.

of rugby, has a different style," Gibbs said. "He is determined to instil in the squad a more ruthless and hard-edged side to our game," Gibbs added.
"With Europe starting in

early September, the Heineken Cup has to be our early target, but the domestic league is a club's lifeblood and we will be going flat out for that honour."

Jenkins, who has remained at Sardis Road despite the close attention of Saracens, said: "I think we are going to be even stronger this season than we

and then the league title. From being the bridesmaids

of three seasons ago, when we were runners-up in the league and cup, we have developed into a winning combination over the past two seasons.

That has been built on hard

work, commitment, honesty and good teamwork." More of the same, allied to

that trusty right boot of Jenkins. should be good enough to see Ponty remain on top, but do not rule out Cardiff and Swansea

Daggers Drawn bypasses Gimcrack for Doncaster

### TODAY

Football

3.0 unless stated Major football (Joures: Page 24 PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Liver-

pool v Aston Villa.

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury v Harrow Borough; Boreham Wood v Bromley: Chesham v Gravesend & Northfeet; Degenham & Retdindige v Carshalton Afriets: Dulunch Hamlet v Heybridge Swifts; Hendon v St Abans; Kingstonnan v Bishoo's Stortford: Odord City v Enfield; Surton Utd v Hitchm; Walton & Hersham v Basingstoke Town: Yeading v Purflet; First Divisions Aldershot Town v Chertsey; Barron Rovers v Bognor Regis; Billencary v Worthing; Croydon v Leyton Pennant; Leatherhead v Berkhamsted; Maddenhead v Tharne; Molesey v Romford; Stanes v Grays Artitetic; Usbridge v Hampton; Whyteleafe v Abrigtion Town; Wolungham v Wembley, Second Division: Banstead v Baring; Bracknell v Carney Island; Brantire v Northwood; Chafforn St. Peter v Metropolitan Police; Cheshurt v Bedford; Edgware v Horsham; Legitton v Hungerford; Marlow v Withem; Tibury v Windsor & Eton; Tooting & Mitcham v Egham; Wivenhoe v Wealdstone. Third Division: Aweley v Homohurch; Camberley v Lowes; Ctapton v Conntham Casuels; Dorking v Southal; Rackwell Heath v Kingsbury; Ford Uta v Herdord; Hernel Hempstead v East Thurrock; Ting's Croydon Athletic; Ware v Hanker, Wingston; East City, Dethaell Fuer Forset Gean Rovers. ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Ay

Inurios, Imp of the Controller of Enemier Divisions Born City v Rothwell Enem Forest Green Rovers Cambridge City; Gloucester City v Heatings; Halesowen Rown v Ashford; King's Lynn v Merthyr Tydfit; Salistury v Gresley Rovers; Sittingtourne v Burton Allon; St Leonards Starroct; v Atherstone; Tarnworth v Dorchester: Worzester City v Crawley Rown. Midland Divisions Brackley V Grandey Rown. Midland Divisions Enackley v Grandey Rown. Midland Divisions Enackley v Grandey Restorm v Solihuli; Moor Green v Corby, Paget Rangers v Stourndge; Racing Warwick v Stafford Rangers; Reditich v Wisbech; Shepshed Dynamo v Sutton Coldfield; VS Rugby v Blakemall. Southern Divisions: Bashley v Cinderford; Chelmsford v Clevedon; Erth & Belvedore v Cerencester; Margana v Trovtondge; Newport. PULLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-UNUEF SUSSEX COUNTY
Vision: Arundel v Whitehawk: Burgess Hill v
Littlehampton: Chachester v Pescehaven &
Telescombe: Hustsham v Portfield; Hosham
VMCA v Ringmer; Langney Sports v Snor-ham; Male Oak v Rednill; Pagham v Satidean; Selsey v Hassocks; Wick v Eastbourne Town-

Selsey v Hassocks; werk v Essteomer Divi-screwerk Direct LeaGLE Premier Divi-sione Backwell v Chart: Bridgester v Paulton; Bristol Manor Farm v Melisham; Calne v Ban-staple; Chippenham v Bideford; Emore v Bris-talgor; Keynsham v Twenton; Mangotsfield v Westbury; Taurton v Odd Down; Torrington NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-MEST COUNTIES LEACH Agreement LR v Prescot Cables; Black-ligherton LR v Prescot Cables; Black-light Land LR v Prescot Cables; Black-light L kidsgrove: Cutherce v karnsbouom, and kol-v Vaudhall GM; Hasingden v Darwen; Holi-er Old Boys v Narrovech; Maine Road v Ather-ton Collenes; Newcastle Town v Rossendale; St Hetens v Salford; Warrington v Mossley. SK PERSON WESSEX LEAGUE Newbury v Christchurch; Totan v Lymngton; Bourn-mouth FC v BAY; Brockenhurst v Portsmouth

Mount Po volves Sports v Aerostructures; Dover-Rh; Cowes Sports et act Cowes Vics v Ryde Sports; Gosport Borough v Eastleigh; Rom-say v Bemerton Hearth Hartequins; Whitehurch INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: INTERLINK EXPRESS MILLIARD ALLIANDES Bridgitorth v King's Norton; Chasetown v Blod-wish; Halesowen Harmers v Boldmere St. Michaels; Pershore v Rocester; Rushall Olympic v West Midlands Police; Sendwell Bor-ough v Barwell; Shifhal v Stratford; Stapen-hill v Oldbury; Wednesfield v Pelisall Villa; Williamshall v Knowenslev Victoria.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Cray Wan-WINSTORLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Cray Wan-derers v Whissable; Crocleanist v Sade Grean; Deal v Lordswood; Enth Town v Ramagate; Follestone Invicta v Connthian; Herne Bay v Greenwich Borough; Swanley Furness v Beckenham; Thamesmead v Centerbury; Tunbridge Wells v Faversham; vCD Athletic v Humb ARNOTT RISURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE

First Division: Billingham Town v Crook; Durham v Guisborough; Easington v Billingham Synthone; Morpeth v Conset; Northeber-ton v Seaham; RTM Newcastle v Bedington; Shidon v Pennth; South Shields v Stockton; Tow Law v Jamow Roofing. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pro-

URLS-PORT CINTED COUNTIES LEMBER THE miler Division: Boston Town v Potton; Bourne v Ford Sports: Buclengham Town v Mirriess Blackstone; Cogenhoe v Eynesbury, Kemp-ston v Desborough; Northampton Spencer v Stewarts and Lloyds Corby; Stotfold v Long Buckby; Wellingborough v Spaiding; Yavley v Monthing. TENNENTS HIGHLAND LEAGUE CUP First

TENNENTS HIGHLAND LEAGUE CUP HIST round: Brora Rangers v Clacifunacuddin; Budde Theste v Kerth; Deveronvale v Peterhead; Bign v Lossemouth; Fort William v Wick Academy; Hurdly v Core Rangers; Naim Courty v Forres Mechanics; Rothes v Fraserburgh. SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divis

Portacown V cosacies ULSTER CUP First round: Bangor v Newry: Distillery v Dungarnon Swifts; Lame v Car-nok Rengers; Limakedy v Ballyclare Comrades. WILKINSON SWORD IRISH LEAGUE CUP Second round: Institution v Banbridge; Royal Ulster Constabulary v Chamney Corner. HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND CUP Section B: Finn Harps v Sigo Rovers (7.30). Section C: Galway v Limenck (7.30).

### UOTES OF THE

Stave Waugh was saying just how much the Australians respect Atherton. He said: They say he's like a cockroach you can't kill. You stamp on him but he keeps coming back'. Adam Hollicake on the England cricket captain.

We have to get a bit of nastiness in our game. Everyone can work out how you can get nasty. When you are playing the best team in the world you can't atford to be soft. Nasser Hossain.

These are the worst scenes I have ever seen on a cricket field. It was a mercy they called it off. Tony Lewis, BBC commentator, after the confrontation between Essex's Mark Nott and Giamorgan's Robert Croft in the NatWest Trophy semi-final.

Sometimes he was a little ahead of our script. Steve Coppell, Crystal Palace manager, on his Italian newcomer, Attilio Lorribardo, after the 1-0 home defeat to Barnsley.

There is a big gap between Italian and English football. Lombardo.

One thing I have learned from being at Spurs is the word crisis. Gerry Francis, Tottenham manager, after supporters called for his departure following his side's poor start to the season.

#### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE Rugby League

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Pars St-Germain v Warrington (8.0) (at Bayoune Municipal Sta dium); Sheffield Eagles v Bradford Bulls (6.30)

Rugby Union

NTER PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Con-nacht v Munster (2.30) (at Sports Ground, Gal-ways: Lunster v Ulster (2.30) (at Donnybrook, Dublin).

Dublin.
WEISH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division:
Elbw Vale v Swansea (6.30); Lianelli v
Neath (2.0); Portypndd v Cardiff (6.0). First
Division: Aberavion v Dursent (2.0); Aberbler
V Trouchly (2.30); Bonymaen v Llandovery
(2.30); Caerchelly v Rumney (2.30); Cross Keys
V Blackwood (2.30); Massing v South Wales
Police (2.30); Metrity Tydfil v Portypool (2.30);
UMIC (Cardiff Institute) v Newbridge (2.30).
CLIB NATCHES- Moseliev v Bimmafaham & uwr., (Carour Institute) v Newbridge (2.30). CLIB MATCHES: Moseley v Bimmingham & Solivuli (3.0); Nottingham v Rotherham (3.0); Richmond v London Welsh (1.0); Sele v Glas-gow (3.0). TESTIMONIAL MATCH: Northampton v Gary

Sneedway ELITE LEAGUE: Bradford v Belle Vue (7.30); Coventry v Peterborough (7.30).

JER LEAGUE: Berwick v Glasgow (6.30); v Hull (7.30).

BOWLS: EWBA National Championships (Learnington Spa). EQUESTRIANISM: Show Jumping Derby

GOLF- Weetabb. Wornen's British Open (Sunningdale); British Mid-Amsteur Championship (Prestwoki). (Presumed.)

MOTORCYCLING: British Grand Prix quality-ing (Dorangton Park).

TENNIS: LTA Satellite (Worthing).

TOMORROW

Football

J. O. unless stated
LEAGUE OF WALES: Cwmbran v Connah's
Quay; Washpool v Ebbv Vala.
MARP MATIONAL LEAGUE OF BRELAND
CIP Section & Cork Cay v Kilemny Cry (2.0).
Section Br Farnad Ind v Demy Cry (3.0). Section
E St Franc's v Shelbourte (3.15). Section
E: St Franc's v Shelbourte (3.15). Section
R: University College Dublin v Bidhermans
(3.15).

Rugby League STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v St He-tents (6.30); Haufax v Olcham (3.0); Leeds v London (6.35); Wigan v Solford (3.0). DIVISIONAL PREMIERSHIP Canthria Pool: DIVISIONAL PREMIERSHIP Combria Pool: Barrow v Carlide (3.0): Lancashre Lynx v Whenstone v (3.0): East Yorkshire Pool: Featherstone v York (11.30); Walerfield v Hull (3.30). Lancashire Pool: Swinton v Rochdale (3.0); Walers v Keighley (3.0) (at Caral Street, Runcorn). West Yorkshire Pool: Batley v Huddersfield (3.15); Bramley v Dewsbury (4.30).

Rugby Union WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division Newport v Bridgend (2.0).

Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE: Glasgow v Edinburgh (6.30); Newcastie v ise of Wight (6.30); New-port v Long Eaton (2.30). ATMLETICS: Great Britain v International Se-lect (Cystal Palace). BOWLS: EWBA National Championships (Learningon Spa).

(Learnington Spa).

(Learnington Spa).

EQUESTRIANISM: Show Jumping Derby meeting (Michigaed). MOTORCYCLING: British Grand Priv (Domingson Park).
MOTOR RACING: British Formula Three Championship (Pembrey, Dyfed).

Daggers Drawn, winner of the Richmond Stakes and favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas, is likely to make his next ap-

Leger meeting.
His connections have opted for the Doncaster event rather the Dewhurst."

IAN DAVIES

than six furlongs Gimerack

end-of-season target for Dag-the Richmond and should have leading fancies stood their gene for the Lanson Cham-ground for the £100,000-added gers Dawn will be the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket in October. The Diesis colt runs in the colours of the Cliveden Stud, whose manager Philip Freedman said: "We are going pearance in the Laurent Perri- for the Champagne Stakes beer Champagne Stakes over seven furlongs at Doncaster's St the Dewhurst. If we had gone for the Gimcrack Stakes it would be a long break before

"Some people seemed to

gone for the Lanson Champagne Stakes (over seven furlongs). It looks like we made the right decision there but I'm sure the extra distance is not going to be a problem. Daggers Drawn is abat present. We're looking for-

ward to his next run." Ante-post punters breathed a sigh of relief after yesterday's declaration stage for the Ebor

8.00 CHEMIQUE ADHESIVES & SEALANTS SKY

65:1007 THULIAM BELLE (1.6) (CD) N Limroder 4 10 0 ...
05:005 LAW DANCER (36) (CD) Y MRs 4 9 5 ...
441630 TOWNERSE (1.0) B Mokarior 5 9 4 ...
65:300 PARSA (USA) (97) (BF) 1 Dring 4 9 3 ...
50:133 CHERONGE FLIGHT (3) (CD) S Mellor 3 9 1 ...
10:220 WILDFRE (SM) (SD) (BF) A Nebrus 6 8 12 ...
000504 MAJOR INGUISE (26) W Heigh 9 8 11 ...
000505 CRAND HOTEL (45) (CD) P Herrs 3 8 5 ...
004000 MY GRA LUEY (8) P Mersel 3 7 13 ...
00-050 SAMIT AMROO (3) B Baugh 5 7 10 ...
10 declared -

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Sarri Amigo 7st. BETIMIC 5-2 Cherolae Flight, 3-1 Paras, 9-2 Willdire, 7-1 Law Dans Hotel, 10-1 Tallulah Bede, 12-1 Tomerre, Major Moose, 25-1 other

handicap, in which 30 horses were declared. The only absentee among the top 10 in the betting is the John Gosdentrained Three Cheers. His stable companion Media

solutely fine and working well Star has headed the betting since an impressive victory at Goodwood last month, with the runner-up Puce, trained by Luca Cumani, next in the list. Michael Stoute has left Purist and Mohawk River in the race.

1564 BLUSHENG VICTORIA (7) M Meade 8 10 . 160322 HEAVENLY ABSTONE (13) P Evans 8 10 .

064440 SARBARON (1.0) P Hams 3 10 0 230242 POINTE FINE FINE (1.0) / Hills 3 9 9 0-6244 CEANOTHUS (7) (BF) W Hagest 3 9 5 600-00 BRYMARK (83) D Murray Smith 3 9 2

06-000 MEADOW BLUE (17) Miss I, Sc 004053 BOLD SAINT (8) P Harrs 3 8 3

4 KUSTOM KIT KATE (21) S Bowling 8 6 ... 50 Sampower Lady (19) W Musson 8 6 ...

— 13 Geolared —
— 18 Geolared — BETTING: 7-2 Only For Soid, 9-2 Tom Dougal, 6-1 Bitto Rita, 8-1 Heavenly Abstone, 19-1 Dancing Ris. Cettle Condort, 12-1 Sampoure Lady, Rio, 14-1 Ra Rasputin, 16-1 Greenbrook, 20-1 Blushing Victoria, 25-1 Hey Up Mate, 33-1 Kustorn Kit Ketle

9.00 SEA HORSE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added1m 1f 79yds

- 10 declared BETTING: 2-1 Red Phaston, 9-2 Kayzee, 11-2 Silver Button, 13-2 Juicy Ting, 7-3
Pwilgias, 8-1 She's Samply Great, 12-1 Zabastie, Qualitair Beauty, 14-1 others

9.30 DOLPHIN APPRENTICE MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 4f

~ 9 destares ~ BETTIME: 5-2 Serberon, 3-1 Pointe Fine, 7-2 Hold Saint, 4-1 Ceanothus, 7-1 Bryskir, 14-1 Meadow Blue

E20.60.

EBOR HANDICAP ACCEPTORS: Nutta 18 Armstrong 5-9-10. Taufan's Metod: (Lady Herines) 6-9-6. Gordi 10 Weld. Ire) 4-9-6. Bettel. Offer (Mrs. A. Perren) 5-9-0. Further Prefri 48 Hills: 11-9-0. Beauchamp Jazie IN Condy 6-8-12. Daraydan IM Proje: 6-8-12. Wilze Conquer (R. Alechus) 5-8-8. Purple Scient P. Maedy 7-8-7. Top Cees (Mrs. I. Ramsdern 7-8-6. Mohlawk River (M. Stoute) 4-8-1. Media Star IJ Costiden) 4-8-2. Docklands Lurro: 9 Mediaths 4-8-0. Puce II. Cumani 4-7-12. Dreams End (P. Bowen 9-7-11. Shaft of Light (Lord Hurriste) 19 (R. Alechush 7-7-10. Per Alecad U. Eyre) 5-7-10. Premier Night (S. Dow: 4-7-9. Colour Code (Mrs. A. Samburk) 5-7-9. Hentage U. Gostiden) 3-7-8. Raffles Rooster (A. Newcombe) 5-7-6. Prame Felcon (B. Hilbs) 3-7-5. Founds Larie (Mrs. M. Reviely 6-7-3. Hentage U. Gostiden) 3-7-0. Congress (Mrs. M. Samburk) 5-7-9. Founds Larie (Mrs. M. Reviely 6-7-3. Hentage) 3-6-12. Comm Dancer (J. Eyre) 4-6-11. Median Blue (J. Eustace) 7-6-7. Tungeney (R. Bastmann 8-6-5.

\_\_\_\_\_\_J Tate 6
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ F Heate 5
\_\_\_\_\_\_ F Eggs 1 V
\_\_\_\_\_\_ C Tengue 8
\_\_\_\_\_ D R McCabe 11

The street was a street

**e**÷...

150

Stakes at York next week. The think we were wrong going for at York next Wednesday. All the 7.30 JUDY'S BIRTHDAY MILE HANDICAP SKY WOLVERHAMPTON 012100 PEOPLE DIRECT (13) (CD) N Lumoden 4 9 11.... HYPERION

7.00 Prompt Delivery 7.30 Failed To Hit 8.00 Chero-kee Flight 8.30 Only For Gold 9.00 Pwilglas 9.30

GOING: Standard.

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: Seven fouriongs outside; rest inside.

DEAW ADVANTAGE: High from 67 to 1m 4f.

If Fibresand, leid-shand, oral course.

Course is N of town on A440. Wolverhampton station im. ADMISSION:

Course is N of town on A440. Wolverhampton station im. ADMISSION:

Course is N of town on A440. Wolverhampton station im. ADMISSION:

Chib \$15; Tamersalls \$6 (OAF members of Diamond Chib \$4); Viewing Restaurant \$55.90 including entrance and meal CAB PARE: free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Grand Hotel (8.00), My Girl Lucy (8.00), Silver Button (9.00).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAFS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: She'u Simply Great (9.00) has been sem. 181 miles by 3 O'Nell from Shekon Wood End, Cumbria; Silver Earrow (7.30) sen. 166 miles by A Newrombe from Hunishaw, Devon, Fair Game (7.00 and Parsa (8.00) sem 163 miles by J Dunlop for Arundel, Waussex.

7.00 E.B.F. STARFISH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 270 7f CLASS D) £4,900 added Z1U.

(CLASS D) £4,900 90.

(CLASS D) ..B Doyle 11 D Holland 12 \_\_ F Eggan 6

BETTING: 2-5 Prompt Desivery, 7-1 Xing's Human, 8-1 Gamera, 14-1 The Groveller, Zero Tirron Ritton, Blan Zola, 16-1 Second gas Son, Imbaciogain, 33-1 others

NEWBURY

NEWBURY
2.10: 1. SHMOOSE (I, Detion) 1-3 fav; 2. Musical Twist 16-1; 3. Thanksgiving 12-1.
16 ran. 19:, 4, (Saeed bin Surcor, Newmarket). Tobar £1.40: £1.10, £3.90, £2.30.
DF: £21.10, CSF: £7.81. Ther £48.30.
2.40: 1. SONG OF FREEDOM (I, Detion) 5-4 fav; 2. Ball Paradise 7-1; 3. Prince of Deniel 12-1, 12 ran. Nt, ht. IJ Gosden, Newmarket). Tobar £2.20: £1.20, £2.40, £2.90.
DF: £6.30, CSF: £8.46, Theast: £63.52. Ther £54.70.

2.54.70.
3.10: 1. BAHR (M Has) 2.1 fev; 2. Quiet Assurance 3-1; 3. Fruits of Love 11-4.
6 rea, 7, 17, (B Hris, Lambourt). Total
52.60; £1.90, £3.60. DF: £15.60. CSF;
£15.73.

2.15.73.
4.10: 1. BUSY FUGHT (M HBs) 4-5 fov:
2. Yorkshive 11-2, 3. Bright Weber 6-4, 3
ras. 1, 2, 18 HBs, Lembourn). Tete: £1.70.
DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.51. NR: Period.

4-40: L MAWARED (R Hits) 5-4 fax; 2. Vicid Romara 8-1: 3. Benjapins Law 13-2.6 ran, 3, 1%, U Dunlop, Arundel), Tota: £2.00: £1.10, £2.80. DF: £9.60. CSF:

\$.10: 1. ALMASI (to Humann) 5-1: 2. Scissor Ridge 14-1; 3. Monitorite 12-1. 11 ran.

9-2 jt favs Delta Solell Resist The Force (4th). Hd. 1%, (C Wall, Newmarket). Total £5,30. Hd. 1%. (C Wall, Newmarket), Tota: £5.30; £1.80, £3.70, £2.30, DF, £60.80, CSF; £70.35, Tricast £757.90, Tho: £302.90, NR; Jackpot: £82.60. Placepot: £17.10. Quadpot: £14.40. Place 6: £22.93. Place 5: £18.84.

BRIGHTON 2.00: 1 MISHFRAK (R Price) 3-1; 2, Overture 15-8 fav: 3, High Gain 7-2, 6 ran. Hd. 2, IR Annistrong, Newmarkett, Tota: £4.30; £1.70, £1.30, DF: £3.00, CSF: £8.03, NR:

2.30: 1. FLOOD'S HOT STUFF (N Adams) 5-1: 2. My Beloved 8-13 fav; 3. Tulsa 4-1. 5 ran. Nk, 1½. (N Littmoden, Wolverhamp-ton). Tetes £6.10; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £7.31. NR: Rae Un Solal. S.00: 1. LA CHATELAINE (R Firench) 100-30: 2. Hever Golf Mover 9-4 (av. 3. Tabasco Jazz 9-1. 8 ras., ½, ½½, (G Lewis, Epsom). Tote: £4.20; £1.40, £1.10, £2.00. DF: £5.20, CSF. £10.40. Tricast: £55.07.

3.30: 1. OPERA BUFF (J Wikinson) 11-2;

2. Sopphire Son 9-2; 3. Sovereign Crest 5-2 fav. 6 ran. Nk. 1. (Miss Gay Kelleway-

Whitcombe). Tota: £5.70; £3.00, £2.40. DF: £10.10. CSF: £27.75. 4.00: 1. NEEN WATERS (A.Carly 11-8 fax; 2. Haydown 20-1; 3. Chopin 7-2. 6 ran. 2, 3. IJ Arnold, Upper Lambourni, Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £8.10. DF: £18.20. CSF: £27.93. NR: Carof's Dream. 4.30: 1. STEP ON DEGAS (R Firench) 3-1:

8.30 THE WEATHERBYS DASH DUNSTALL BREEZE UP STAKES (CLASS B) £30,000 added 2YO 6f

2. Mytotye 11-4 fav. 3. Pearl Dawn 20-1. 13 ren. Hd, ½. (M Fetherston-Godley, East Hsley). Tote: §4.00; £1.60, £2.70, £7.00. DF: £6.50. CSF: £10.62. Tno: £95.00. NR: Fort Knox, Scathebury. Placepot: £16.80. Quadpot: £9.50. Place 6: £35.76. Place 5: £26.89. SOUTHWELL

1.50: 1. OBERON'S DART (Paul Eddery) 11-2; 2. Be Warned 7-1; 3. Bold Street 6-1. 12 ran. 11-4 tay Bagshot. 8, 1½, (P Makin, Ogbourne Massey, Totar: £6.70; £2.60, £2.60, £2.70, DF: £11.50, CSF: £95.04, Tito: 2.20: 1. NEWLANDS CORNER ID Biggs)
13-2: 2. Zelotto 7-1; 3. Ramman's Usher
14-1. 14 ran. 11-2 lav Stolen Kiss. 1½, hd.
14 cheurst, Upper Lambourn. Totle. 27.50;
12.10. £3.70, £6.20. DF: £24.00. CSF;
£48.36. Treast: £588.15. Tro: £231.60;

RACING RESULTS £228.34 carned forward to Newbury 5.05 to-day. NR; Rich Glow, Triflicar. 2.50: 1. DEEPLY VALE (M Wigham) 10-1; 2. Thordis 9-2; 3. Legend of Aragon 5-1.
11 ran. 5-2 fav Desert Invader. 1%, 4. (G. 1.
Moore, Brighton, Totes: 69.40; 22.50, 61.50, 22.90, DF: 27.90, CSF: £48.75. Troc. £107.80, NR: Ceia's Rainbow, Sharp Return.

.....K Darley 9 ...J Weaver 12 .l. Charack 4

3.20: 1. LIQUID GOLD (Emma O'Gorman) 11-1; 2. Sparky 8-1; 3. Johnste The Jok-er 14-1; 4. Our People 14-1 16 ran, 5-1 er 1a-1; % our reupe 1a-1. 15 ran, 5-1; f las, liberam, Nor-Do-1, 6, 9, NV O'Gorman, Newmarket). Tota: £13.60; £3.60, £1.70, £3.50. 69; £94.50. 65; £94.91. Treast: £1.173.97; Tito: £409.20; £374.69 carned forward to Newbury 5.05 today.

3.50: 1. CLASSIC BALLET (P Roberts) 13-8 fev; 2. Foolish Fluther 7:2: 3. Nicola's Princese 10-1, 7 ran. 6, 7. (R Guest, Newmarket). Totac: £2.40: £1.30. £3.20. DF: £5.20. CSF: £7.02. 4.20: 1. BEECHWOOD QUEST IL Charmodo

4.20: 1. BEECHWOOD QUEST II. Charnold 7-4 fav; 2. Ok John 5-1; 3. Charlles Lad 3-1. 18 ran. Hd, 1; 4. (B Rothwell, Werthil). Totae 64.10; £1.10, £2.50, £1.70. OF: £11.60, CSF: £10.80, Ino: £5.60, NR: Precisely. 4.55: 1. ROBBO (Mr J Crowley) 5-1; 2. leedwood Epic 4-1 fav; 3. Mrs Drummond 1-1. 9 ran. 6, 1% (C Thomton, Middleham).

Placepot: £287.00. Quadpot: £26.10. Place 6: £124.46, Place 5: £58.99. \* THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES FERIES AUGHTON (B) MENTON ABBOT (E)
WOLVERHAMPTON (E) 0891 261 970 Calls cost 50p per wheels. TLC pile, So

Yota: £4.70; £1.20, £1.60, £2.10, OF £15.00, CSF: £22.98, Tricast £143.18, Tro

حكذا من الاحل

sport



Omens good for Precedent RICHARD EDMONDSON There was a slight overnight im-provement in the condition of

foot in her last piece of serious

work on Newmarket's Race-

course Side on Tuesday. She was

lame on her return from exer-

cise the following morning.

Bosra Sham, who was an odds-

avourite for Tuesday's con-

on the move this weekend.

"Bosra Sham is fine this morning," Cecil said yesterday. "She had a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse and a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse and a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse and a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse and a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse and a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse and a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse are also belong the horse and a shoe put on and was led ou. The horse are also belong the horse and a shoe put on was led out. The soreness is less and less and we are hopeful she Bosra Sham yesterday and the will make it to York. filly now looks likely to make an "We have got to lead her out International Stakes at York and canter her tomorrow and on that was in danger of being

Sunday. Then we will give her a blow-out on Monday. Things stripped of quality as well as numbers. are going the right way rather Henry Cecil's four-year-old than the wrong way." bruised the sole of her near-fore Willie Ryan, who partners

Bosra Sham in much of her manoeuvres on the Newmarket trial grounds, was yesterday appointed by an enemy camp when he signed up to continue his relationship with the Derby winner Benny The Dip. The colt's owner Landon

test on the Knavesmire, has Knight had been keen to embeen fitted with a special shoe ploy the French champion jockbearing an adhesive plastic ey Olivier Peslier, but John Gosden, Benny The Dip's trainflange, much the same as she was in the run-up to last year's 1,000 Guineas. She will be kept er, put that idea to the guillotine. "When Frankie [Dettori] was not available Willie was the

The owner likes Olivier Pes-

lier but he was given the chance to ride Benny The Dip [in the Derbyl and decided to ride something else.
"Benny The Dip is in good form and seems well, but it does

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Young Precedent NB: Socket Set (Newbury 2.30)

look as if it is going to be a fun-uy old race again. We won't play into their hands this time as our fellow's at his best when bowling along and winding things up son. from the front."

DEAUVILLE - Sunday

6122-14 SPORMIC WORLD (Nachos Family) J Pease 4 9 4.

1123-52 ZAMINDAR (Protest Abdustiv) A Figure 3 8 11.

112-113 DAYLAM (Agr Mart) A die Rojer-Dupe 3 8 11.

14-14112 STORRIGHOUGH (Shelfn Mohammed) D Loder (IEB) 3 8 11.

4-62151 PEPER (Nachos Family) J Pease 3 8 11.

2.35 PRIX DU HARAS DE FRESNAY-LE-BUFFARD BBC2

BETTRIC: 6-4 Daytoni, 2-1 Spinoing World & Piperi (coupled), 9-4 Starborough, 4-1 Zamieri 14-1 Noully

PORM GUIDE
STARBOROUGH, namouly beaten by Al-Ropel in the Group One Susses States over a mile at Goodbood,
sar confirm earlier St. James's Police States placings with Depland who would prefer softer ground, a
reman, which also applies to Splanding World.
Selections STARBOROUGH

it is never easy to beat the older horses," the jockey said. "Whatever happens, I'm sure

As Singspiel and Desert King are the only other certain run-ners, it appears the Interna-tional may be won in the mind of one of the jockeys, a theory that could apply to this after-noon's Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury.

they will both run big races."

The two that can largely be ruled out of the Group Two contest are Panama City and Dushyantor, who does not appear to have forgiven Cecil for sending away all his three-yearold mates at the end of last sea-

That leaves the event as a kyan has a recent form guide contest between the flotsum of out against the home trio of from the gallops to gauge the prospects of both horses. "I ride Bosra Sham in a lot of her work that Shamton (200) has been supported by the statement of t Bosra Sham in a lot of her work that Shanton (3.00) has recov-

ered best from that widowmaker of a race.

It will be interesting to see if Willie Carson leaves the sanc-tuary of the BBC box for the opening race, which sees the return to Newbury of Meshhed, who kicked the Scot into retirement last season. This race can fall to YOUNG PRECE-DENT (nap 2.00) now that he is returned to seven furlongs. Socket Set (next best 2.30) has the tools for the St Hugh's Stakes.

The money race of the weekend at Deauville tomorrow is fully titled the Prix du Haras du Fresnay-le-Buffard Jacques le Marnis. No wonder Peter O'Sullevan is retiring.

Starborough transports the Union Jack for David Loder here, but will have his work cut months ago.

Hyperion's TV tips NEWBURY LOO: MR SPONGE, 81/4 lengths

third to Snow Kid over 7f at Sal-isbury, is well handicapped. 2.30: MUGELLO, half a length second to Lady Alexander in the Group Three Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood, will be hard to beat

3.00: PREDAPPIO was well-beaten in the King George but can show he is better than that.

Tarden 10-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 Bouden Rose 12-1 14-1 12-1 12-1 Por The Present 141 141 141 12-1 
 tir Neigh
 1/4-1
 1/4-1
 1/2-1
 1/2-1

 Backary Blace
 1/6-1
 1/6-1
 1/6-1
 1/6-1
 1/6-1
 Exercise Market 12-1 12-1 12-1 18-1 Gotten Found 141 141 161 141 Ther 141 141 101 161 Ventue Capitalist 141 151 151 161 Broad Restacy 25-1 20-1 22-1 20-1 Zaze/s Dancer 25-1 22-1 22-1 25-1

Canonia Heart 33-1 25-1 23-1 25-1

FIRST SHOW

Newbury - 2.00

Tycocon Toold 9-2 6-1 7-1 6-1

Mentheri 91 101 101 81 Young Procedur 101 101 81 91

met Nick 9-1 11-1 10-1 11-1

loch Patrick 14-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

kinny Staccago 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1

Each-way a fifth the cricks, places 1, 2, 3

Ripon - 3.40

My Best Walestine 11-2 11-2 6-5 11-2

Double Owner 91 91 101 81

Double Action 12-1 11-1 9-1 10-1

C - Cozal H - William Hill L - Lachschess, T - Total

Strap Het

84 52 21 52

92 41 92 41

132 61 74 74

91 81 114 91

C H L 1

101 101 114 114

Mary David 33-1 25-1 33-1 25-1 251 401 401 401 Just Lord 33-1 40-1 50-1 40-1 Unsa Major 40-1 50-1 40-1 40-1 Each-way a regioner the costs, obscss 1, 2, 3, 4 C-Cosal, Si - 1555 per Hall, L-Lectropless, T-Total

630050 FOREST ROBIN (19) (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 4 8 5 M Decring 10 

Manimum weight: 7st 10th. True handitap weight: Notby Barnes 7st 9th.

BETTING: 4-1 Prides Of Peacle, 9-2 High Spirits, 13-2 Durald, 7-1 Minutes
8-1 Bowellife, Plans For Profit, Silent Valley, 10-1 Forest Robin, 12-1 Nobby Barnes, Wassef, 14-1 Keep Battling, 20-1 Makhutah

4.50 BOROUGHBRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 5f

The Tota bat on the 3.00 at Newbury: Evens Shantou, 15-8 Predappio, 8-1 Dush Strategic Choice, 12-1 Panama City

ingers take rain down telephone

HORE ACCOUNTS

ET INTEREST RATES

S. Commercial Commerci

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NIS.

\$ 34.0g

20/2-

HYPERION 2.15 Misterton 2.45 Minnah 3.15 Bailpoint 3.45 Double Oscar 4.15 Mibulwa 4.45 Charib

GEOFFREY FREER STAKES

198 98 99 90 91 82 93 94 95 96

GOUNG: Cood to Firm (watered).

STALLS: Straight - stands side; round - uside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course. A sharp track with tight bends.

Course is east of the city on B8266. ADMISSION: Club £12;

Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring £4; Course £2 (accompanied under-16g free all enclosures). CAR PARE: Car and up to four occupants in course enclosure £8; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Grovefair Lad (visored) (2.15),

Colonel's Fride (visored) (4.50). Colonel's Pride (visored) (4.50). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Bowden Rose (3.45) won

at Epsom on Sunday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Yet Again (3.15), Golden
Found (3.45) and Waasef have been sent 286 miles by Miss G
Edleway from Whitcombe, Denset; Runerging Market (3.45) has
som sent 273 miles by J Dunlop from Artundel, W. Sussex.

2.15 HARROGATE SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 2f

2.10 Dawn Summit 2.40 Raven's Roost 3.10 Crafty Chaptain 3.40 Whothshellisharry 4.10 Pap-

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places, watering).

Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yds.

Course is 4m 85 of Wresham near function of A525 and B5069.
Bus service from Wresham station. ADMISSION: Paddock 59;
Course 14 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARE: Free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Log Beforms (2.10), Annie's

Rehen (3.40).

Rehen (3.40).

INNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: My Harbizski (2.40) won at Worcester on Saurday, Powerful Spirit (4.40) won at Worcester.

Ler on SELITUS.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Amitge (2.10), Pond House (3.10), Mozemo (4.10) and Totally Fours (4.40) have been sent 170 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon; Tersab (2.10) has been sent 141 miles by C Mann from Upper Lambourn, Berks.

2.10 KINGPIN LABOUR HIRE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 2m 1f

4 TERMAB (P138) C Marr 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Mages (3) 5 AMFREC (PR) (F36) M Ppc 10 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A P McCoy \_ 6 declared - BETTEMS: 4-7 Arabigs, 5-2 Dawn Sammit, 6-1 Terash, 16-1 Leg Beforum

2.40 ROYAL FUSILIERS AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f

41-221 LORD NATAGERICLE (SLASS E) 2-5-10-0 states 27th Pet 41-221 LORD NATAGERICLE (SLEWBy 7 11.10. July 1. Libershyn 6) 543-23 HORR LOW (FLB) (SF) M Harmond 9.11.9. July (Charleson (7) 401-20 ARLE PLATER (F7) (D) K Drawy 10.11.7 ... July K Drewsy (7) 24-104 EDWIND SEMBOUR (SI) (D) Works 10.11.5 July A Mindow (7) 400-0-1 MY MARSHESON (7) (D) I Jones 7 10.12. July S Descrit (7) 407-0-2 FAME AND FROMEY (SS) (C) G. Lores 6 10.3. July B Thornton (3) (F-PO) ROYAL SELVER (15) B PRODE 6 10.0 ... July 1 Goldstein (7) -8 doctored -

Schmoose is a top-priced 12-1 with Coral for the 1998 1,000 Guineas after winning easily on

1 DAWN SUMMIT (15) (CD) P Badley 11 5. Mr R Thomas (3) 0 JACKSON FALLS (14) T Essenty 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Destitul 0 LEG BEFORUM (14) M Soversty 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_ A Debtiu B

parazzo 4.40 Follow De Call

224450 RARE TALENT (14) M Charton 9 7 \_\_\_\_\_ A Calhane 8 5-4063 MACART (22) 8 Baugh 8 11. \_\_\_\_\_ P Roberts (5) 10 43350 RED EMBERS (13) D Nichols 8 11. \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Greenes 7 0-600 MORDICO MELODY (22) Met 8 Smith 8 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Greenes 7 0-600 MEDICO MELODY (22) Met 8 Smith 8 5 \_\_\_\_\_ K Durley 2 8 0-0000 MESTER MY (87) K Morgan 8 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Jo Hammen (7) 9 6600 PERMESHEY (14) W Haggas 8 2 \_\_\_\_\_ F Lynch 15 060 PERMESHEY (14) W Haggas 8 2 \_\_\_\_\_ F Lynch 15 5-00 PERMESHEY (23) I S Smith Obbourse 8 1 \_\_\_\_\_ F Egin 33 E 5-00 PERMESH EX (22) Mis S Smith 7 12 \_\_\_\_\_ A Mackay 6

### 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 15 

uers est 130. BETTME: 4-1 Petumbe, 5-1 inkwell, 6-1 Macori, 7-1 Grovefoir Lod, Alia-dara, 6-1 Rove Taleat, Mictorico, 10-1 la Perdoma, Gymcrait Gorjos, 12-1 Perfect Bear, Red Embers, 14-1 Pemberley, 16-1 Ball-Pet, 20-1 others 2.45 KNARESBOROUGH STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 6F 104 AIX EN PROVENCE (28) (D) M Johnson 9 3...

2 510 FASHION VICTIM (17) T Catheel 9 3 \_\_\_\_\_ A Culture 7
224214 PREK STAR (18) C Farturs 9 3 \_\_\_\_\_ L Chernock 6 V
4 04 NOBLE DEMAND (9) Ms 1 Rensden 8 11 \_\_\_\_\_ I Fortune 8
5 4 MINEMAN (30) D Mortey 8 6 \_\_\_\_\_ R Cochrane 4
6 3633 ARSS PUCI (18) J Barry 8 6 \_\_\_\_\_ R Cochrane 4
7 MOVING PRINCESS Ms 5 Nat 8 6 \_\_\_\_\_ R Dartey (3) 2
8 UNIFORM Mss 5 Noble 5 Nat 8 6 \_\_\_\_\_ R Dartey 1
8 UNIFORM Mss 5 Noble 6 \_\_\_\_\_ R Hodgen 5
- 8 doclared BETTIMG: 11-4 Milmah, 7-2 Alx En Provence, 4-1 Noble Demand, 11-2 Prix
Star, 7-1 Fashion Victim, 8-1 Miss Pard, 25-1 Moving Princess, Uniform 3.15 BILLY NEVETT MEMORIAL CUP HANDICAP

(CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 4f 60yds 

3.10 COMBERIMERE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

411F-1 POND HOUSE (12) (CD) M Pipe 8 12 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A P NeCoy 11123 LANDSWER MESSLE (LDS) (SF) Ms M Sers 8 11 2 M EMMESS

/15212 BRANGLEBERRY (4) (C) (BP) Mrs S Smith 8 10 13 ...R Guest 430-42 CRAFTY CHAPLAIN (21) (D) D McCan 11 10 5 .......T Josks

3.40 EQE INTERNATIONAL MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

4.10 LORRAINE READER NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

499-21 1896 OF SHADOWS (15) (CD) R Holinstead 1D 11 10-8my Lycas 2114-2 KINLOSH GALE (12) Mrs M Bigns 9 11 6 ......Mr E Williams B

4.40 SHOWTIME NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE

MRES SK CA. BETTING: 13-8 Totally Yours, 2-1 Espheric Mestion, 4-1 Powerful Sphit, 8-1 Follow De Call, 14-1 Dame Hose

1221 TOTALLY YOURS (12) (D) M Pige 4 11 10...

ezo, 100-30 King Of Shadows, 4-1 Bit Of A Dream, 1980, 8-1 Wells Court, 10-1 Kinlogh Cale, 33-1 Crim-

8 O3 RAW DEAL (15) B Peace 4 10 11.

- 8 declared REITING: 7-4 Knolidozom, 11-4 Cidef of Morrassas, 9-2 Wilt7-1 Armie's Kitchen, 10-1 Row Deal, 10-1 Theoretiscopinglo-

4.15 ROTHMANS NORTH SOUTH HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000 added 1m 1f 

3.45 WILLIAM HELL GREAT ST WILLFRED HAND-ICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 6f

322243 ABCHELLO (15) G Oldroyd 3 8 9 Pertune 10 (20054 BLUE LAMP (USA) (15) M Innis 3 8 9 R Cochrane 6 -00230 MUZDAS EMELTIME (12) E ASSON 3 6 9 I. Channol 5 PASSIGNATTI S Gollings 3 8 9 II Charrol 8 - 12 das - 1.2 secured -BETTINC: 6-4 Starth, 5-1 Archelle, 13-2 Bise Lewy, 7-1 Night Express, 8-1 Prince Of Parkes, 10-1 Donn Filipe, 14-1 Hittons Executive, Good To Talk, 20-1 others

STRATFORD

HYPERION Kedwick 4.20 Blair Castle 4.55 Hever Golf Diamond 5.25 Eric's Bett

GOING: Good to Firm (watering).

Left-hand course with 200yds run-in.

Course is SW of Stratford-on-Aron on A439. Stratford station in ADMISSIONS: Chib 12. TRAITERINES 53; Course 54. CAR PARK: incide course 53, remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DESTANCE BLINNERS: Night Time (4.55) has been sent. 168 miles by A Hobbs from Hendfann, Devon; Effece (3.20) has been sent. 168 miles by P Bowen from Haverfortwest, Dyled; Cooley's Valve (4.55) sent 145 miles by hirs 5 Williams from Mariansiciph, Devon.

2.20 RICHARDSONS CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110yds

| 251-6 | CLASS 7| 25,000 | GROBER 2 III 6 | LEDY |
| 251-6 | RUBBITY (RSA) (21) (7) | Wilders 9 11 2 | B Powell
| 2 | 46-P12 | WILDERS (12) (70) R O'S Mace 8 11 2 | B A Pizgenid
| 3 | 031/04 | CHICAD'S BEST (5) (5) K Correled (10 10 13 A Doubleg (7) B
| 4 | R11-3 | JENZSOPE (12) (5) (9) Protote 6 10 11 | B Correle 6
| 5 | P11P-6 | TIELYKYNE BELLS (12) D Weste 8 10 10 | W Massion
| 6 | 0160-5 | CRICUS COLOURS (7) | Jenérs 7 10 7 | A Magnite
| 6 | 0160-5 | CRICUS COLOURS (7) | Jenérs 7 10 7 | A Magnite
| 6 | 0160-5 | CRICUS COLOURS (7) | Jenérs 7 10 7 | A Magnite
| 6 | 0160-5 | CRICUS COLOURS (7) | Jenérs 7 10 7 | A Magnite
| 7-6 | 0160-1 | 0160-1 | 0160-1 | 0160-1 | 0160-1 |
| 8 | ETTING 2-1 Wilders, 11-4 Jenzsoph, 7-2 Circus Colours, 13-2 Chicago's Best, 7-1 Rindry, 10-1 Tubykyne Bedis

2.50 STAR SITE LEISURE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m 

3.20 FORT SHOPPING PARK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f 110yds 

BETTING: 7-4 Wisco., 9-4 Waiter's Drone, 5-2 Alphe Leather, 16-1 Miss Blass Stater, 20-1 North Gen

3.50 STRATFORD-LPON-A/ON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,000 added 2m 110yds ...... M Richards V ........ G Bradley ........ A Butes (5)

O SWEET CISEALIX (7) B Lievellyn 4 11 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Culloty
THOR'S PHANTON (FST.) M Usiner 4 11 2 \_\_\_\_\_ W McFartand
NARIS BOO (FSL1) M Snepperd 4 10 11 \_\_\_\_\_ N Farrant
NARIS HEEK (48) IR Best 4 10 11 \_\_\_\_\_ N F O'Nordite (7)
— 9 doctared —
BETTING: 5-2 Redukts, 9-2 Mr Montagine, 5-1 Pride Of Nashmir, 9-1 Sweet
Cleonix, 7-1 Thor's Phantom, 30-1 Penygara Gavinor, 14-1 Margi Boo,
20-1 others

4.20 MICHAEL POWLE'S HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 1f 110yds 

4.55 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 110yds | (LLASS F) ZZZJ S SKILEN ZII LLDYGS | 15221 ABOVE THE CUT (88) (D) C Microck 5 12 0 ... M Hamiley (S) 342-27 COOLETS WALKE (S) (D) MS S Wikers 9 11 11. Sophie Michael 266U-4 PAIR OF JACKS (71) (ED) P Hobbs 7 10 13 ... D J Knemmigh O-P483 TOULH SKIVER (7) (D) H Marmers 7 10 8 ... A Domining (S) P412-3 NEVER GOLF DAMONDO (9) (D) J R Best 4 10 8 ... J Apopt B 6333-U ALMAPA (12) R Hodges 5 10 4 ... J Hamis (S) 1-0524 MIGHT TIME (12) (ED) A FORDS 5 10 1 ... ... S Shortdon (6)

5.25 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

4-3 MAFIAK (F24) W Hom 6 11.5 R Festint
05301- LOSLOMOS (LA6) 6 Balling 5 11.5 B Festint
0-00 SOU SOU WESTERLY (F2) C Weedon 6 11.5 M Wichards
BILLIFINCH (F68) R Philips 4 11.2 J Geborne
FASE CANYON F30) F Jordan 4 11.2 R Supple BILLIFICE (FES) R PRINTS 4 11 2

EMBE CANYON (FSO) F John 4 11 2

EMBE CANYON (FSO) F John 4 11 2

FMAR IVARBLY (FR) (FSO) C Mann 4 11 2

ISSEY WIZZY J Jenkors 6 11 0. 03 RETURN TO BRIGHTON (7) J M Bradley 5 11 0 ...... R Joi

SETTRIC: 4-5 Alukak, 100-30 Engle Carron, 7-1 Erich Bett, 10-1 Return To Brighton, 12-1 Bulliuch, Feldr D'Arrily, 20-1 Losiomos, 25-1 others

HYPERION 5.40 Action Jackson 6.10 Al Mabrook 6.40 Nicker 7.10 Sharp Wassi 7.40 Homestead 8.10

her debut at Newbury yesterday.

Freedom Chance

Freedom Chance

GOING: Good to Firm (watered hat 6f).

8TALLS: In 2f & 1m 6f - outside: rest - inside.

8TALLS: In 2f & 1m 6f - outside: rest - inside.

10LAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best over if & 8f.

10LAR-hand, Ushaped course, undulating and sharp.

10LAR-hand, Ushaped course, undulating and sharp.

10LAR-hand, Ushaped course, undulating and sharp.

10LAR-hand to the steppose from town centre. Sriging of the latest of the steppose from town centre. Sriging on the latest of the latest

5.40 ROTTINGDEAN APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 2f 

6.10 E.B.F. ALFRISTON NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 270 5f 59yds

6.40 DOWNS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 6f 

- 13 declared BETTING: 7-4 Friendly Brane, 11-2 Third Party, 6-1 Nicker, 8-1 Hellie Horth,
10-1 Montrector, Shesth, 12-1 Cuspian Nora, Dack Recurce, 16-1 The
Frieldy Former, 20-1 others 7.10 SOUTHERN FM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 3YO 1m - / cocated -RETINE: 9-4 Sharpo Wheel, 3-1 Olivo, 7-2 Kellant, 7-1 Ortollas, 8-1 Zimiri, 12-1 Perfect Poppy, 16-1 Gryvolair Vesture 7.40 SOUTH COAST LIMITED STAKES | CLASS F | 2.3,400 3TO Im| CLASS F | 2.3,400 3TO Im|

8.10 DUKE OF NORFOLK HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 3YO 1m 4f 003442 FREEDOM CHANCE (19) J His 9 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Henry (3) 4 Y 096311 RUMHNA (19) J His 9 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Henry (3) 4 Y 096311 RUMHNA (19) J His 9 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Henry (3) 4 Y 096311 RUMHNA (19) J His 9 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Henry (3) 4 Y 09630 CASTLES BURNAN (15) (15) C Oper 7 13 \_\_\_\_ A Poll (5) 1 006200 SEMICHERS UNY (3) D Abustos 7 11 \_\_\_\_\_ J Opins 3 Y 4 declared (19)

DEWIN HEDE

5.50 Manlleno 6.20 Distant Storm 6.50 Galatasori Jane 7.20 Sam Rockett 7.50 Stapleford Lady 8.20 Royal Expression

GOING: Good.

Course is N of town on A380. Newton Abbot station 1m. AD-MISSION: Takenessils £10; Course £5. Accompanied under-16s free, CAR PARK: On rails £1.50, remainder free. Left-hand, sharp, course with short run-in.
BLINKERED PIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Galloping Guns (7.20) won

st Worcester on Samulay.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Thirty Below (8.20) and Emples (7.10) have been sens 287 miles by M Chapman from Marlot, Ensen, Lines; Captain Marmalade (7.20) has been sent 249

5.50 AUGUST EVENING HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 370 2m 1f 

6.20 MIDSUMMER MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 6f 

6.50 A J BLACKLER RENAULT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 5f 110yds RE2-05 CARDAN (14) R Fost 11 10 12 R Bellewy SETTEMS: 4-5 Ct 23321 HACKET'S CROSS (15) (5) P Sodes 9 10 12 A Thornton 25-1 Court Bat

27542 NEW STATESMAN (25) P Richerts 9 10 12 MA A Richestell FLAGT RELIXON (7) H Marries 10 10 12 Section 10 46-FP RISTRICTURE (12) L Walerg 10 10 12 MIN CHRISTO (60-FD) THEFELD SOFTH HENRY (25) A Bando 7 10 12 Mr Q McPhail (7) 24-P54 HEMERO (5) R Buckler 5 10 8..... 

- 9 declared -BETTENS: 10-11 Galatzsori Jose, 4-1 Harketts Cross, 6-1 New States-nam, 12-1 Reflect, 16-1 Homoro, Theoloticolathomy, Wolk in the Woods,

7.20 JERZEES AMATEUR SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 1f 2211-2 THENE ARENA (8) (D) (BF) M Ppc 4 11 10 Mr 6 ENoti (5) V 0100 2 SAM ROCKET (DA) (D) Gay Valency 4 11 8. Mr 5 Numck (7) 65/34 C-PYRAM MARKHANDE (FF) D TROM 8 10 12 MF 1 Rezent (PF/FP- SWEETLY DISPOSED (168) C Jones 9 10 11 Mine A Unday (7)

7.50 NIGHT IS YOUNG HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 110yds

8.20 BIRDIE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 6f

NEWELL 4.00 Mahboob 4.35 Rokeby Bowl 5.05 Faith Alone 2.00 Mr Sponge 2.30 Mugello (nb) 3.00 PREDAPPIO (nap) 

en, N. Yorks.

2.00 ANDOVER RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,000 [ED. C.1.]
added 7f 64yds Penalty Value £7,437 2.00 added 7f 64yds Penalty Value 27,437

1 1-104 MESHED (RS) (33) D) BR) 6 iandan A Malaoumi B Harbury 3 9 7 ... R Hills 7 95

2 50-460 LICK PRITICK (14) (Male EM L Cate) M Medigent 7 9 6 ... R Relia 8 22

3 000682 Law Commission (15) [9] Regiment from 0 Basen 7 9 2 ... K Relian 1 31

4 1-06 Troon Totol (USS) (70) (Maleoum A Melaoum) B Harbury 3 9 7 ... R Relian 1 31

5 5 543340 SHARP HAT (14) (13) C Smith R Harmon 3 B 12 ... Dane O'fiell 5 95

6 000603 RAVISE (6) (30) U H Relianon A Melaoum) D Loder 3 9 2 ... W Ryun 9 9 95

7 033000 JOHNY STACCIO (22) (1 C Smith) I Eustine 3 8 10 ... Dane O'fiell 5 95

8 3 MR SPOREE (USN) (22) (0) (35) (Paul Melaon) Health (3 3 8 7 ... Lettern 10 92

8 3 MR SPOREE (USN) (22) (0) (35) (Paul Melaon) Health (3 3 8 7 ... Lettern 10 92

8 3 MR SPOREE (USN) (22) (0) (35) (Paul Melaon) Health (3 3 8 7 ... Lettern 10 92

8 3 MR SPOREE (USN) (22) (0) (35) (Paul Melaon) Health (3 3 8 7 ... Lettern 10 92

8 3 MR SPOREE (USN) (22) (0) (35) (Paul Melaon) Health (3 3 7 ... Lettern 10 92

8 3 MR SPOREE (USN) (22) (0) (35) (Paul Melaon) Health (3 3 7 ... Lettern 10 92

8 202350 JUST HECK (US) (9) G Cantel W Mair 3 8 4 ... Martin Dayler (3) 4 50

4 125 YOUNG PRECEDENT (71) (9) SPOREN (regime) P Haros 3 8 2 ... Lettern 10 92

8 EFTING 5-2 Mr Sponge, 4-1 Law Commission, 13-2 Tyceom Todd, 7-1 Sharp Hat, 8-1 Mesthed, Rayree, 10-1 heat Mel., Yeang Precedent, 34-1 Lock Patrick, 20-1 Johnny Staccasto

1996: Cool Sign 5 9 5 P Robinson 6-1 M Tomptrick draw (6) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

Unroced at two, MR SPORKE looked smart in his five-length Selectury (good to farm) success in June on only his second nun, and west unswated by the cur in the ground when third to Snow MR at the same track a forthight state. He was on top weight on his interded handicap debut in a three-year-old event is it sets week's standard at start his term but showed worth an interest gating weight from most here. Law Commission, a witner at Folkestone, Kernpton and Asout set year, finished unplaced on his first seven starts this term b

2.30 SWETTENHAM STUD ST HUGH'S STAKES (Listed) 12.30 (CLASS A) £14,000 added 2YO 5f 34yds £9,904 | CLASS A) \$14,000 added 2Y0 5f 34yds £9,904 | CLASS A) \$14,000 added 2Y0 5f 34yds £9,904 | CLASS A) \$14,000 added 2Y0 5f 34yds £9,904 | CLASS A) \$15,000 | Class B) \$15 | Martin Dayer 5 93 | CLASS A) \$15,000 | CLASS A) \$15 | CLASS

3.00 GEOFFREY FREER STAKES (Group 2) (CLASS A) ESC1 2.50,000 added 1.m 5f 61)08 2.39,581.

1 24.115 SHANTOU (ISA) (21) (Steich Mohammed) 1 Gooden 4 9 9 ... Detton
2 33.546 STRATEBIC CHOICE (ISA) (21) (2) 04 Aria) P Obe 6 9 9 ... Pat Babler
3 20.286 DUSHAMTOR (ISA) (35) (K Andelin) H Ocal 4 9 6 ... K Fallo
4 11-210 PREAPPIO (21) (Gooden'n) Seed by Suror 4 9 6 ... K Fallo
5 22.134 PANAMA CITY (ISA) (57) (R E Sangser) P Chapite-Hern 3 8 6 ... D Handson
6 Gooden - 6 Gooden - 7 Frederick, 13-2 Strategic Choice, 8-1 Deshyrator, 12-1 Pant
1998: Pransom Gold 4 9 3 L Deton 6-1 (Lord Hursington) desen (5) 7 cm

FORM GUIDDE

SHABUTON green better for Frederic Performance was and can record the worning 1 Deltod 1 120

SHANTOU goes better for Frenkie Debort than anyone else and can regain the winning thread. Disablymation had a length and a quarter in hand of Shentou when they cheach forme Shaamt in the 1996 Derby but Dustyentor turned the form around in the Stueger. He won the Gran Premio De Jockey Cub at Sen Sto next time, beeting Luso a length and a quarter, with last year's John Porter winner Strategic Choice three lengths away in fourth, and wound up lest year with a fourth behind Psixils, Singapiel and Swan in the Bredens' Cup Turf at Woodbine, with Dustyeartor severith of 14. Shantou had his rival eight lengths admit when mastering Swan in the Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket on his return, John Goddan's colk lost his chance when hampered in the King George, finishing nine lengths back in tith behind Swan, but he had Strategic Choice and Predappio, who was pounds below his best in the rear-collened ground, in arrears, Predappio had besten subsequent Ecipee water Pisudia in the Hardwicke at Royal Ascot after running Bosra Sham to half a length in the Brigadier Gerent at Sandown.

3.30 LEVY BOARD NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £6,900 added 270 7f 64yds Penalty Value £4,991 222 SHUD HINNE (28) (HON) THUSTINES DOD, J HIS S 100314 SAFTRON LAWE (EQ. S.L. PATRICISTIC) R Harmon 8 6......
4503 RINNELEADER (LS) (Norm) P Cole 8 3
260024 REPREZ (LA) 6/855 M C Fraser) P Control 8 2
540 WITHEAST LION (LS) (Sheish Armed Al Melstrum) M Jones
430 DELGHANA (L2) (The Delegation Dozen) P Harris 7 12
COCLO1. ACID TEST (8) (D) (4) do V Patrick) W Mur 7 10
4410 DELGHANA (LS) (The Delegation Dozen) P Harris 7 12
COCLO1.

STONE OF DESTINY, from last year's winning stable of Brian Meehan, can open his account despite being on 9st 750 in his first handcap. The Ballad Rock cot, down the field to Overture on his Sandown (6f) debut, has found one too good in both runs alnoe over six futnongs—beater a length and a quarter by Headhurter at Yanmouth and a length and a half by Krispy Kright at Newmarket. The extra furlong, and Pat Eddery, will be a help, Bold King deserves a with after history numer-up in at three outings, most recently when best-in four lengths by Finar Tuck at Ayr. Richard Hennon, who does so well in runsaries, more saffron Lases and Lobuche. Selfton Lane, after getting off the mark at Nothingham in May, history three and a half lengths befind Sea View when they were third and fourth to Sapphire Ring at York (good to sort) but, with a 6th pull on better ground and over an extra futnon, Seffron Lane should reverse that form. See View Brisshed a length and a half adult of Ringleader when they were third and fourth to Country Gerden over today's top at Associ two weeks ago.

4.00 E.B.F. YATTENDON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 270 7f Penalty Value £4,302 BEAUCHAMP MASIC (E Penser) J Duniop 9 0 ... Brute Mork (J C Smith) | Balting 9 0 .... 

ESTING: 11-4 (Risemplan, 7-2 Veodoo Saist, 4-1 Shertoon, 7-1 Beintood, 10-1 Bluegaid, 12-1 Sonsyda, Bise Monts, 14-1 Cacida, One Bliner, Poils, 18-1 Benefate, 18-1 Bluegaid, 12-1 Sonsyda, Bise Monts, 14-1 Cacida, One Bliner, Poils, 18-1 Benefate, 18-1 Bluegaid, 12-1 Sonsyda, 1998: Monze 2 9 0 J Red 11-4 for (P Chapple-Hyam) drawn (10) 17 ran FORM SILIDE.

There are encouraging reports concerning KILIBARIARO, and the colt is tipped to make a winning debut. A 500,000 gris putchese, he is by Shriey Heights and a close relation of the 1984 Prix Du Jockey Club winner Darstream, as well as a half-brother to several winners. Silvertown, bestern two and a half lengths by Kilimanjaro's oddis-on stablemate Tribert on his Sandywin debut, a bound to progress, as is Mahiboob for his first run in changing frome Cerestus at Lingfled in July. Peter Chapple-Hyam's Veodoo Saint, a son of the Shabedy and King George winner St Joste out of a mare who won eight times and has produced winners, is another debutant who could go well.

STAKES (C) ASS (C) 510 000 4.35 TRIUMVIRATE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS C) £10,000 added 1m 4f 5yds Penalty Value £6,127

### Waddle's plan to wake up 'sleeping giant'

Lincoln and Chris Waddle, former wing wizard and terrace hero from Tyneside to Provence, was helping to cart Burnley's match kit into the changing rooms at Sincil Bank. Alongside him, offering a helping hand, was Frank Teasdale, the Burnley chairman.

Welcome to life in the Nationwide League's Second Di-vision. It is hard to imagine Kenny Dalglish and Sir John Hall pushing the kit skip at Newcastle, where Waddle began his playing career, or Irving Scholar and Bernard Tapie, the chairmen of Spurs and Marseilles when Waddle was playing for them. Like several contemporaries, Waddle could have cut his managerial teeth in the Premiership, so why

Waddle, who makes his home debut as manager against Gillingham this afternoon, explained: "A lot of people I spoke to said work as high as you can', a lot said 'go and learn your trade'. I think this club fits both. They have the potential to be regarded as a sleeping giant. It should be a good First Division club at least. I bave a three-year contract and that's my target. I had no connection with the club, apart from playing there once with Newcastle and getting beat, but I had waited for a club of this stature."

By the standards of the division Burnley are very well supported and well funded. They just missed out on the play-offs under Adrian Heath last year and, importantly for Waddle, have a tradition of good foot-

"I like to play," he said. "I hate long-ball football. There will be times we do hit it long. no team can pass pass perfect all the time, but I've said to the players, 'get it, pass it, move'. I'd never resort to direct foothall. If success means doing that I'd rather walk away, go and follow a team as a spectator in-

Waddle's first three matches are against teams who play the direct game to varying degrees. Last Saturday they lost at Watford, today Waddle makes his home debut against Gillingham. In between they of Glenn Roeder, Gordon were at Lincoln for a Coca-

It is five hours before the game but Burnley are taking the opportunity to lay out the kit before the crowd gathers - and

to a superstar eager to learn his trade as a manager

to have a look at the pitch to see if the infamous John Beck, now manager of Lincoln, has done anything to it.

It looks perfect but one of the

groundstaff admits that when Beck arrived he attempted to have the corners banked as on a cycle track so a long ball hit into the corners would hold up. A few holidaying schoolboys are hanging around. As usual they follow Manchester United, not the local team, and are thrilled when Waddle allows them a quick look around the bus - it is the one United use.

This is a rare touch of luxury for Burnley. Waddle admitted that while he had talked about management to a lot of people the most "invaluable" preparation was having a month as a player at Falkirk last

'I'd never resort to direct football. If success means

doing that I'd

rather walk away'

season and five at Bradford. "I'd been accustomed to clubs where you can wave a cheque book around and where everything was geared to the players. Where you were spoilt. I'm not saying those clubs are small clubs but they were not as big as the ones I was used to and that gave me a different ex-

Waddle has spent £600,000 bringing in former Premiership players Mark Ford (Leeds). Steve Blatherwick (Nottingham Forest), Lee Howey (Sunderland) and Michael Williams (Sheffield Wednesday) along with Marco Gentile, nennew of the infamous Claudio Gentile. He also has an impressive back-room staff Cowans and Chris Woods,

surprisingly, the bookmakers have Burnley down at 9-4 to gain promotion. "If the bookies are right, I'll

who is also eligible to play. Not

was a steamy afternoon in Glenn Moore talks be happy but I don't have a magic wand. It would be a massive achievement to go up this season, new players need time to settle. All I can do is get the players to believe in what we are trying to achieve, to play football, give effort and commitment. We won't fail for lack of effort, it will be because we were not good enough or did not have the luck. People say luck levels itself out. I'm not a great be-liever in that."

Continental theory is in vogue and he will introduce afternoon training later in the season but notes: "Marseilles' training wasn't hard. People say you do morning and afternoon' but we'd do 40 minutes in the morning and 45 in the afternoon. It is pointless doing it because they do it. It has got to be beneficial. We have cut out all the chips and stuff like that but you can't watch them 24 hours a day. Me and Jean-Pierre Papin used to have a McDonalds after training. You just hope that players are good pros and when they leave training they go home, they eat sensibly, they stay in and do all that, but English players are a breed of their

Supporters, too. In the evening Waddle is taunted with chants of "you're not famous anymore" when he warms up, but he had earlier recalled: "L noticed a difference in the way was perceived when I came back from France. People always say you are a good player in your country but if you go abroad, and do very well, you are looked at differently. When I came back I was known as a great player - and I was a better player. Also, everybody was saying how well I was playing yet I could not get in the England squad.

Ironically, the man who would not pick him was his first opponent as manager, Graham Taylor having, returned to Watford, "It wasn't a problem. I don't bear any grudges against Graham. He was manager and he had to make decisions about who to pick and leave out, I'll have to do the same.'

Taylor is also at Lincoln, probably to watch Lincoln's emotion. Only once does he be-Gareth Ainsworth, a modernday Nigel Callaghan who causes Burnley problems from the start. Burnley are clearly the better footballing side but they himself to clapping and enhave problems on the flanks couraging his team.



and, despite the first of three superlative saves by Marlon Beresford, are behind to an excellent Phil Stant goal at half-

Waddle, who is not fully fit, has made himself substitute. On the touchline he is a room before re-emerging for prowler, pacing about the manager's box like an expectant fa- terviews. ther, but he shows little rate the lenient referee, explayer Steve Baines, when Paul Barnes is unfairly pulled back. Most of the time he restricts

with the team's resilience, cold dinner. leads the mutual applause with

Waddle confirms that he has not changed, this week he watched six live and two telethe 436-strong away support then heads for the dressing vised games. "I'll be seeing a lot of foot-

ball this season. I knew it would be hard until I got into a routine but I haven't just gone and said to Lorna 'I'm taking this job'. I've been offered jobs since I was 32 [he would send him out for a is 36] and we've talked about it for years. She said 'go for

### World Cup silences the new season

Glenn Moore on why the Premiership has already ground to a halt

Arsenal's players will all be in action this afternoon. Overmars speeding to complete his househunting, Scaman concentrating hard on his fishing line, Bergkamp gliding between the potted plants at the garden centre and Vieira tackling his English textbook. None of them, however, will be playing football, today or at anytime this week. Apart, that is, from training.

Arsenal are due to train this morning after which, like thousands of football fans, they will suffer from a certain emptiness. One week into the season and the Premiership has downed boots. What is going on?
The root of the problem is in

Helsinki. That is where Norway are playing a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday and, in the modern Premiership, that means most clubs have lost a couple of players. Not that the Norwegians are the only ones: almost every country in Europe, not to mention South America and Africa, are engaged in World Cup matches over the next eight days. Which is why the Premiership, with 88 players away, has ground to a halt.

Bizarrely, it is Arsenal, with 12 foreigners on their books. who are least affected, as the handful of uninvolved countries include England, Scotland. France and the Netherlands. The only Arsenal player absent is Luis Boa Morte, away with Portugal's Under-21 side, but he is yet to break into the club's first-team squad. So Arsenal could have played today - but they could not have found any opposition. Glenn Hoddle, incidentally, decided it was better to let England's players rest as it was so early in the season and

Why, however, start the Pre-miership last week knowing it would have to stop immediate. ly? To give England time to pre-pare for the World Cup finals (assuming they get there they had waited until next was the fixture list would have become more congested.
Frustratingly, the Premicr-ship, after resuming on 23 Au-

gust, breaks again three games and 10 days later to allow England to prepare for the visit of Moldova on 10 September. There are further scheduled breaks in October, for England v Italy, and November, for the second leg of the World Cup qualifying play-off. If England have qualified, they will use that as a training weekend.

If they have not qualified, the weekend fixtures before the playoff first-leg. 25 October, many probably be re-arranged as w Even if England are not involved several clubs will lose players, and the chairmen decide next month whether they should be allowed to postpone matches.

it comes down the usual problem: too much football. Uefa, European football's governing body, has proposed to Fifa, the global authority, that. in future, countries play doublebeaders, as England did notoriously in Poland and Norway in 1993, to reduce the number of international weeks. However, Uefa could stop ex-

tending its club competitions and force countries such as San Marino to pre-qualify. Meanwhile, the Premiership could fulfil the promise of its foundation, and reduce to clubs. Neither scenario is likely, because revenue - the driver behind most policy decisions would be affected.

### THE PREMIERSHIP INTERNATIONALS

Aston Villa (4): Staunton, Townsend (Rep of Irl), D Hughes (Wah), Netson (Roc.) Barnsley (2): Trilder (SA), Hinston (Mac.). Blackharn (7): Dahlin, Anderson (Swe). Kenna (Rep of Irl), Wornell (Rep of Irl) Williams (Wal U-21), Donls (GA). on (St. Taggart IN In), Blake (Well), Branegan (Rep of In), Francisco (Den., Bassana God).

Content (St. Petresou (Rom), Paregan (Rep of In), Francison (Den), Biggingin Building (St. Petresou (Rom), Plo, Grodas (Nor), Milly Region (Nor), Ployer (In), Coverity (St. Heworth (Wal), Medican (Sice), O'Nest (N In), Botand, Bress (Rep of Inf In In), Edward, Bress (Rep of Inf In In), Ployer (Bo), Presidents (St. Quien (Rep of In II-21), Zohor (Bo), Hrestersson (Ioe), Dasby County (3); Trotope (Wel), Issuren (Den), Poom (Est).

Berston (S): Southell, Oster, Speed (Wel), Phelon (Rep of In), Femely (Rep of In) U-21), Theorem (Den).

eads (5): Radebe (SA), Halland, Halle (Nor), Kelly, Hane (Rep of tri) Leicester (3): Lermon (N.M.), Sarege (Wol), Namen (Swe), Liverpool (5): Leonivirdeen, Bjoinebje (Nor), Bebb, Hennedy (Rep of MJ, Riphints (MM) U-21).

Maintenador Lata (7): Serg (Mod), Schri Multyne (N Lri), Gliggs (Mal). Nanacasathe (7): Asphila (Col), Tomasa( Iri), Gudonasson (Loc), Smilgek (Co Repli

Tottenhem (6): Neisen (Dgn), Carr, Fern, Mehier (Rep of M IV-21), hersen, Sansen (No West Ham (6): Mistosia (Cz Rep), Reper (Den), Berlowsch (Ist, Lornes, Hughes, Coale M Windhidot (3): C Hughes (Mel), Curningtom (Rep of M), Murphy (Rep of M IV-21).

# Manchester United

I have a secret which nobody re- fit in with United's schedule. I ally knows about, although those closest to me have an inkling that something may not be quite right. I am a re-spectable middle-class mother from a leafy suburb of northwest London, and I am not having an affair. Nor am I squandering money on vodka or scratch cards. My secret is a growing obsession with Manchester United, who everyone else seems to love to hate. How did this all begin? Af-

ter all, men and young boys are

supposed to feel passionate

about football, not women from Pinner approaching middle age. I have certainly been captivated by United and life may never be the same again. My family is divided on football, with my two young sons supporting the same team as their Mum, my daughter a rare breed of Liverpool fan who does not hate MUFC and my husband, a rather tormented but relieved Brighton fan. Although I have never been the sort to jump on the female "football is boring" band wagon I may have complained about it being on the television constantly or not understood my husband's need to read the sports pages first without checking to find out if World

War Three has broken out. I feel rather sorry for my husband at the moment. It cannot be easy when your wife of 13 years suddenly seems to know the odd fact about football that you don't. I gave him little sympathy over the plight of poor Brighton last season, distracted by my own concerns

about United's fate in Europe. I am quite conscious not to join in too much when we have friends round. Football chatter usually leaves the other women bored stiff and the men unsure. Every time my husband asks me

think he would probably draw the line at a poster of Alex and the boys above our bed.
Trevor Hicks, who lost both

of his teepage daughters at Hillsborough, said, on the dramatised documentary about that day, that football was the one thing they did as a family together, a common interest. I feel that it is like that in our

We all watch football together, the boys play football, have Subbuteo, we have table-top football, we have computer games, we have foot-ball shirts and videos and a library of books from Glenn Hoddle's "Spurred to Success" to Garry Nelson's wonderful "Left Foot Forward". My daughter and I discuss who is better looking: Giggs or

Yet there is still a stigma against women football fans that you've got to be a bit of a pints-and-roll-ups type - al-though things have got slightly better over the years. When we went to England v Mexico at Wembley, they were selling small plastic bottles of Chilean Chardonnay, so they must have expected some women. Maybe now I am being sexist, it's just that I did not see many men giving up their bottles of Carlsberg

favour of warm white wine. Well, my secret is out now, l am a big Manchester United fan and proud of it. I don't think that this is a passing phase; I am going to enter middle age a committed United follower.

The other day I rang Old Trafford for details of the fan club (for my sons, of course) and found that an elderly lady who lives down our road is also a fan. Another closet Man United fan in Pinner! I will have to knock on her door and share a cup of tea and talk about winning this out for an evening we have to year's Premiership title.

### Nike Air Max Megadome here we come

wealthy peers?

Hall in 1955, to move to a new stadium, vacating the Old Show Ground in favour of nearby ford complete relocations next estate on which the ground vear, the total cost of new ground

set the ball rolling will top £200m. Nothing wrong with that; most of the clubs concerned had football's current popularity.

However, less commendable

sponsor or further inflate the ego of a well-to-do chairman. Glanford Park and the Bescot is a magnificent ground.

How often, in today's mon-eyed, get-rich-quick football cli-sall's new home in 1990) are unmate, is a club as small and as derstandable - if uninspiring unsophisticated as Scunthorpe choices, being the names of the able to steel a march on its more localities. Wycombe chose Adams Park in honour of patron The answer is, about as often Jack Adams, while the Deva as John Beresford scores a goal, Stadium was so-called since it's which is very occasionally. Yet in the Roman name for Chester. An 1988 the Irons (without the aid elderly Northampton fan sugof a Football Trust grant, since gested Sixfields after a popular this was before the Taylor Report) local recreation area, while Derbecame the first club since by's Pride Park was favoured by Southend uprooted to Roots many fans (Pride of Derby and the New Baseball Ground were among the other choices, but perhaps Dark Park would be a more

stands. Headline writers should development since Scunthorpe have some fun with that one. Bolton's Reebok Stadium simply reflects the current intheir hand forced by the rec-ommendations of the Taylor At least Middlesbrough's Cell-Report, and by the increasing net Riverside Stadium is almost demand for seats generated by universally referred to without the sponsor's prefix, but how long will it be, for heaven's are the names being chosen for sake, before we have the Ford these new stadiums, which in Puma Park, the Kelloggs Strike it's grown on us. It keeps the re-some cases annear to do noth- Stadium, or even the Nike Air gal link with the Victoria has a tenuous connection with Max Megadome? Huddersfield's choice of the Alfred McAlpine Stadium spoils what

Olivia Blair

the long round of media in-

to reacquaint himself with the

family. I remind him of an

interview when his wife.

Lorna, complained that she

takeaway and he would stop

on the way back to watch a

Then it is home to Sheffield

ON SATURDAY

Stoke's selection of the Britannia Stadium is marginally more acceptable, even if it Glanford Park. Last night Sun-derland continued the trend, day night's floodlight failure fi-and by the time Reading and Ox-asco) and is the name of the small(ish) building society who from Newcastle fans who, inpaid just £1.3m over 10 years for evitably, have christened it the the honour; at least it wasn't named after the nearby Trentham Lakes, or called the Side-Siddaway) after the local area makes Sunderland's the largest of the same name, which sounds new stadium of the decade, like a place where Ray Wilkins and there's provision to inought to finish his career. Mar- crease capacity to 68,000. But Gillingham.

something rather incongruous fanzine A Love Supreme, claims about a club which is facing the the name's far too long, and has prospect of playing host to the completely taken the gloss off anything of note since the FA ground is - they're all comanything of note since the real Europe in 1973, sharing a stadium plaining about the name.'

So, take note, Oxford, who Graham; they'd have preferred mouth, or even, apparently, the

Sunderland Stadium of Shite.

Ah, yes, Sunderland. Now am approaching the city. But Mar-I alone in thinking that there's tyn McFauden, editor of the likes of Bury, Stockport and the move: 'No one's talking Crewe, and which hasn't won about how wonderful the

ropean venues? Obviously not, are due to complete their move because the reaction of the Sun- to an as yet unnamed new £23m derland fans has been as nega-stadium next year. Reading, tive as Arsenal under George meanwhile, have already chosen to name their new stadium the the more conservative Wear- Madejski Stadium after chairman John; I suppose it could Mackem Stadium. In fact, the have been worse, since Uri Geller is a committed Royals

Of course there's another club starting life this season in On a positive note the club a new home: capacity 10,600, should be praised for their am- ample parking, good ameniway Stadium (pronounced bition; the 42,000 capacity ties. Trouble is, Brighton's new stadium is located at least 80 miles from Brighton, it's called Priestfield, and it belongs to

tin Smith, editor of The Oatcake relegation put paid to the club's finally, a few suggestions for fanzine admits the fans were upidea of selling the names of the those clubs who might be conset at first: "We wanted it named stadium and all four stands to sidering relocation, or even just after Sir Stanley Matthews, but a commercial company; instead, a change of name: White Hurt Lane (Spurs), St John's Park (Newcastle), Yellow Brick Road Ground, and when we heard Davy's Lamp, since it's on the (Watford), Badison (Everton) Sunderland's choice, quite site of the old Wearmouth Col- and the Passport Office frankly we were mopping our liery, and you're meant to be (Chelsea). Further suggestions able to see the stadium lights on on a postcard, please.

### MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

Charlton v Oxford Grewe y West Bromwich

4 Reading y Swindon ... Stockport v Bury Moives v Sheffield that ... 6 Sournemouth v Wigst

Brentford v Chesterfield

8 Bristol City v Blackpool

9 Burntey y Gillingham.

10 Carisie v Watford .... 11 Plymouth & Gameby stort v Miliwell Wrexham v Oldham. 14 Wycombe v Northempton.... 15 York v Bristol Rovers ...

Third Division 16 Barnet v Exeter 17 Brighton v Macclestield .... 18 Cambridge v Rotherham ... 19 Postponed: Cardiff v Chester. 26 Doncaster y Peterborough ..... 21 Hartlepool v Colchester 22 Hull v Notts County ... 23 Lincoln v Shrewsbury.

24 Rochdale v Mansfield 25 Scunthome v Leyton Orient .... 26 Torquay v. Scarborough.....

**GM Vauxhall Conference** 27 Dover v Cheltenham .... -28 Gateshead v Femborough ..... 30 Herefold v Weiling.

31 Kettering v Slough (3.15)...... Morecambe v Leek Rushden v Northwich Southport v Hednesford ... Statybridge v Kiddenninster .... Woking v Tetford ...

Yeovil v Stevenage.

Bell's Scottish League 32 Celtic v Dunfermline 33 Hearts v Abendeen .....

34 Motherwell v St Johnstone... 35 Falkirk v Ayr ..... 36 Morton v Hamilton .......

38 Raith v Airdrie 39 St Mirren v Stirling Albion. Second Division

37 Partick v Dundees...

40 Brechin v Inverness CT. 41 Clyde v Forfar .....

42 East Fife v Sterihousemuli 43 Livingston v.Strengaer 44 Queen of South v Clydebank

Tisted Division 45 Albion Rovers v Berwick

46 Allos v Cowdenbesth ... 47 Arbroath v East Stifting... 48 Dumharton v Montrose , 49 Ross County v Queen's Park.

TOMORROW

Bell's Scottish Longite Premier Division Dundee Utd v Hibernian (4.0)

### Jansen pleads for patience

Scottish football

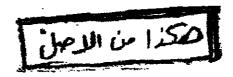
Celtic's head coach, Wim Jansen, yesterday urged his players to show some patience against Dunfermline Athletic in day's top Premier Division fixture - although he admitted it was a quality unlikely to be in evidence from the Parkhead

In his first home league game in charge, Jansen plans to reap three vital points in the wake of the opening 2-1 loss to Hibernian at Easter Road a fortnight ago. The Dutchman feels his side may need to bide their time to achieve victory, blaming a lack of calm as the main cause for Tuesday's 2-1 Uefa Cup defeat away to Tirol Innsbruck.

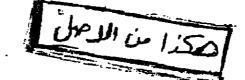
"I am keen for us to continue to establish our own style of playing, which we were a long way from achieving during the first half in Austria, Janse said. "After the break we were closer to the way I want us to play. When everybody played in their position we were more comfortable, with more options in attack. I don't expect the crowd to be patient [against Dunfermline] because they always want you to win well, but we must be relaxed."

Stéphane Mahé, forced off at half-time against Tirol with a rib injury, is unlikely to play today, hile Alan Stubbs and Morten Wieghorst are doubtful.

Despite their unfortunate experiences with Jorge Cadete, who is languishing in Lisbon suffering from stress, Celtic are pursuing another Portuguese striker. They have made a. £1.5m bid for Sporting Lis-bon's Paulo Alves, and are also chasing the Hamburg goal-keeper, Richard Golz, Cadete, despite his alleged health problems, has been having talks with the Spanish First Division club Celta Vigo.



sport



# Rocca breezes into contention after lay-off

cashing in on

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green courage

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PAPERS

ORT RECYCLING

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ANDY FARRELL reports from Mamaroneck,

The row of national flags at the back of the stand by the 18th green have been cunningly arranged so that the Star Spangled Banner is the one that catches most of the breeze through the trees. This may be appropriate enough given the predominance of home players on the leaderboard at the

USPGA Championship.
Few of the European flags deserved to be flying high yesterday, but the Italian tricolour was th a generous flutter as Costantino Rocca returned a second successive 69. At two under par has many that the desired of the second successive 69. der par, he was two behind the mark set by John Daly and Davis Love in the first round.

Rocca shared his mark with Jeff Maggert, who was fourth at the US Open, Phil Blackmar and Shigeki Maruyama. Blackand Snigero Maruyama. Diack-mar was with Paul Azinger in a local park on Wednesday hav-ing a fly-casting lesson when some local hoodlums started throwing apples, rocks and then lumps of asphalt at them. Both Love and Rocca hold

Both Love and Rocca from 10th place in their respective Ryder Cup qualifying tables. The Americans decide their team this week and though the Ryder Cup have the Ryder R Europeans have two more weeks to go, Rocca has slipped back badly in the past three months. After being fifth at the US Masters, the Italian suffered a shoulder injury at the end of May which kept him out of the US Open.

When he returned to action, compensations in his swing due to the problem caused a rib injury. "It is a long time since I feel this good, or play this good," Rocca said. He has missed only four fairways in two days, and only one yesterday. His round was helped by holing a 60-foot putt at the ninth, but as usual it was the quality of his

long-iron play that impressed.
At the 17th, he put a six iron
to 15 feet, which he holed for a birdie, while at the last, from 184 yards, he nearly holed his five-iron approach for eagle. He would gladly accept another two 69s. "The mind is only on this tournament and this course," Rocca added. "If I play good I have a good chance to make the team.

His sentiments would have been shared by Jose Maria Olazabal had he been playing well. Instead, in his worst showing since he returned to the game in March, the Spaniard missed the cut on 12 over par. Ballesteros' two wild cards distinguished themselves, Nick Faldo scoring a first-round 75 and Jesper Parnevik a 76.

It was an opening 79 from Olazabal that will have disappointed Ballesteros, the European Ryder Cup captain, most. After a 73 yesterday, Olazabal will fly to Ireland to practice for the forthcoming European Open, "I drove the ball very poorly and you are going to struggle on a course like this if you are missing fairways," he said.

Questions about the Ryder Cup situation get short shrift. "I don't care," he said. "It is much more important for me to do well

more important for me to do well on the course than whether I'm going to be in the team." He knows as well as anyone, however, that the one leads to the

Colin Montgomerie's day started better than on Thursday, when the announcer on the first tee refrained from calling him "Co-line", a pet hate of the Scot. The result was not much better, however, as he again took three putts on the hole.

After an opening 74, Montgomerie needed an improvement to make the cut and his luck turned at the 216-yard third. Far too quick on his swing, Monty pull-hooked his tee shot, the ball only staying in the vicinity of the hole via a tree and a spectator's head. It took a brilliant chip, low over a bunker with a nine-iron to save par, but from the fourth he went on a run of four consec-utive birdies. It could have been even better as he missed from 12 feet for an eagle at the

Taking two to get out of a greenside bunker at the eighth cost a double-bogey, however, and he took another double at the ninth, when he pushed his drive so far right that he had to proceed up a fairway of the adjoining East course. At five over par after his 71, Montgomerie was "on the bubble" for being around at the weekend.

"It was not pretty out there: even my run of birdies was more to do with luck than talent. That's the first time in a long time I've had to go down another fairway and there were people asking me for my auto-graph as if I was walking in.

\*I had problems with everything and I'm bordering on having no confidence. But I haven't missed a cut in the world this year and that's a record I want to keep. This course is such a good test of golf; it will find you out in a hurry if you are not on your

O Browne 70 73: 8 Mayfair 75 68: S Hoch 71 72. 145 Y Keneko Ulapan) 72 73; F Funk 71 74. 146 P Jecobsen 74 72; S Torrance (GB) 74 72. 147 B Boyd 71 76. 148 G Day 76 72; C Parry Juse) 76 74. 149 C Toutson 75 74. 150 J Stone 75 75. 152 J M Olazabal (Sp) 79 73. 155 P Calley 78 77; G Borus 74 81. 158 J Mason 78 80. 163 M Fuller 81 84. Withstrew: M Webe. COMPLETE FIRST-ROUND SCORES



Greg Norman, his trademark hat temporarily removed, plays out of the trees on the ninth hole at Winged Foot yesterday

### Tunnel vision helps Webb keep Johnson at bay

ANSTRUCTURE PROPERTY OF A CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF A CONTROL OF A CO to a second round of 70 in the Weetabix Women's British Open at Sunningdale yesterday. It left the Australian, who won the title two years ago, at nine under par on 135 to lead by was that I didn't make as many putts as I did in the first round." her first bogey of the championship at the short 13th, but she under par on 135 to lead by three strokes from Britain's Tr-SPORTING DIGEST

board," Webb said. "I just wantmy usual plan over the first two green. rounds. "The difference today

"I didn't look at a leader- missed another chance when two at the short 15th. she had three putts at the 264ed to get into position. That is yard ninth after driving the a shot at the 10th, where she

Three more putts cost Webb onship at the short 13th, but she in two strokes of Webb, only to Webb managed just one had a birdie at the 11th then hit

Karrie Webb turned a blind eye ish Johnson, who also shot a 70. birdie in her outward 35 but a four-iron to three feet for a

Johnson, out in 35, dropped drove into sand, but had birdies at the next two. Another birdie, at the 15th, saw her move to with-

"My putter was a bit cold to-day," Johnson said, "I had 33 putts but it felt like 43."

Nancy Lopez slipped as she was leaving the 10th tee and hurt her arm. The American, runnerup to Alison Nicholas in the US Open last month, had a 79 to finfall back with a bogey at the 16th. ish on 156, missing the cut.

### **Saints** dispense with Van **Gobbel**

**Football** RUPERT METCALF

Dave Jones yesterday continued Dave Jones yesterday continued his rebuilding job at Southampton by dispensing with the services of the Dutch defender, Ulrich van Gobbel.

The big 26-year-old had been linked with Celtic, coached by his compatriot Wim Jansen,

but instead returned to his former team, Feyenoord, for an undisclosed fee. Jones, the Southampton manager, gave van Gobbel his last start for the club in Wednesday's 1-0 defeat at Manchester United.

Barnsley want West Ham's Northern Ireland international striker Iain Dowie but have not been able to agree a fee with the Upton Park club. Tony Scully, the Republic of Ireland Under-21 midfielder, has completed his £300,000 move from Crystal Palace to Manchester City.

Nigel Spackman has been confirmed as Sheffield United's manager, after taking over as caretaker in June following Howard Kendall's departure for Everton. "I will give it my all and just hope it's good enough," the 36-year-old former Chelsea midfielder said. Bolton have decided not to

sign the Marseilles forward, Marc Libbra, after a trial spell, while Eric Nixon's £150,000 transfer from Tranmere to Stockport has collapsed after the veteran goalkeeper failed a medical on a knee injury.

### **Britons** make advance

Tennis

Tim Henman returned to form and Greg Rusedski upset the seedings as the two Britons reached the last eight of the Pilot Pen International at New Haven, Connecticut.

Henman, so uncertain whilst narrowly escaping two days previously against the Czech Daniel Vacek, played with inthe New Zealander Brett Steven 6-4, 6-4 on Thursday, while Rusedski was at his feroce to overcome cious best in overcoming the top 20 Spaniard Albert Costa. The British No 2 looks to be

heading for a top 20 place himself for the first time after a 6-3, 7-6 win in which he produced 15 aces and some fierce commitment. Rusedski will now meet the 1996 Wimbledon men's singles champion, Richard Krajicek, today. Henman's win has earned him a repeat of last year's famous match at Wimbledon against Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who is the top seed.

At the RCA Championships in Indianapolis, the world No 1, Pete Sampras, suffered a surprise third-round defeat to Mag-nus Larsson, losing 7-6, 4-6, 7-6.

Andre Agassi produced his best tennis for six months as he saved three set points before berating beat the third seed, Alex Corretja of Spain, 7-6, 6-1. Seven of the top eight seeds have now been eliminated.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE (Wednesday's corrected results): Priladelpha 12 Colorado 8; Chicago Cuss 6 San Francisco 5; Pitisburgh 2 Atlanta 1; Florida 8 Houston 6; New York Mets 5 St Louis 4; Los Angeles 3 Montreal 1; Cincinnati 2 San Diego 0, Thursday; San Francisco 7 Chicago Culs 3; Los Angeles 1 Montreal 0; San Diego 5 Cincinnati 4 (10 Innings); New York Mets 6 St Louis 2.

AMERICAN LEAGUE (Wednesday's corrected results): New York Warkees 9 Kansas City 3; Detroit 13 Cieveland 3 (list game); Texas 7 Boston 6; Dakland 4 Baltimore 2; Toronto 3 Minnesota 2; Chicago Witte Sox 5 Ancheim 2. Thursday: Anahelm 5 Milheaukee 1; New York Yankees 10 Kansas City 5; Oakland 12 Chicago Witte Sox 5. Postponed: Settle at Baltimore (power failure).

ENGLISH WOMEN'S CHAMPIONISHIP (Royal Learnington Spa) Singles third round: J Green (West Moors, Dorset) it M Osborne (St Neots) 21-12. Quarter Finelis: Green bt Y Webb (RACS, Graveserd) 21-17; J Baker (Biackweil, Derbyshre) bt D Hanlen (Eghem) 21-13; M Proc (Burnhern, Bucks) bt N Shew (Noton, Durham) 21-11; S Derbebby (Bourne Town, Lincs) bt J Hearle (St Lawrence, Norfolk) 21-16. Seand-finelis: Baker to Green 21-12; Price bt Dimbleby 21-18. Triples third round: Oxford C&C (J Molyneur) bt Baktock (S Page) 19-18. Quarter-finalis: Oxford C&C (S Lacey) bt Billet, Esser (P McQuinn) 18-9; Siloth, Cumbra (S Parler) bt East Boldon; Durham (J Warson) 18-14; Siegress Vine (D Briars) bt Caff Pasach, Hurstarton (T Manisck) 20-19; Oxford C&C (Molyneur) bt Greenthil, Weymouth (B Carry) 22-7. Semi-finalis: Oxford C&C (S Lacey) bt Siloth 19-8.

:...

The Premier League has won the latest stage in its legal battle to prevent the Scandinavian TV broadcasts of Seturday afternoon flotures by pubs and clubs in this country. The League has won a High Court order against one of the main suppliers of the transmission diverting equipment. The devices will no longer be sold and remaining stroks. longer be sold, and remaining stocks will be handed over to the League's so-

The Manchester City goelkeeper Tom-my Winght has been ruled out of North-ern Ireland's World Cup qualifier against Germany in Belfast on Wednesday be-

Duridse United have completed the signing of the Swedish forward Goran Markland from Vasalund for an initial fee of £100,000.

Re Of £100,000,
Anders Limpar, the former Arsenal and Sweden winger whose contract with Birmingham City was cancelled in the close season, has joined the Stockholm side AlK Sofna.

LOAN TRANSFERS: Jason Harris (forward) Crystal Palace to Lincoln City, Drowe Broughton (forward) Norwich City to Wigan Athletis; David @Bbert (midfleder) West Bromwich Albion to Grinsby, Lee Richardson (midfleder) Oldram to Stockport.

ELROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP Preliminary

ies win shoot-out 3-2).
TURKEY SQUAD (World Cup qualifier v Walse, intambul, 20 August): Goalkeapers: Rustu Recher (Fenerbahoe), Volkan Klimeri (Galstassaray), Defenders: Farth Alvel (Galstassaray), Bulent Kotomer (Galstassaray), Alpay Ozalam (Besitessi, Abdulleh Ercan (Teberspor), Folkatay Kufalas (Trabzarspor), Minat Banturk (Genderbuig), Middidelms: Ergan Penthe (Galstassaray), Tuyk Kerlanglu (Galstassaray), Mehanet Ozellek (Besitess), Ogur Tembriannoglu (Trabzonspor), Ogur Cetto (Istarbutayof), Tayfan Korlaut (Fenerbahoe), Fernandis: Halsen Sultur (Galstassaray), Saffet Alyut (Sarabutspor), Arif Erdess (Galstassaray), Ballet Alyut (Sarabutspor), Arif Erdess (Galstassaray), Ballet Mindigel (Salabassaray), Entit Erdess (Galstassaray)

ray), Saffet Akyuz (Istarbuispon), Arli Erdenz (Galstasarry).

ENGLAND UNDER-18 SQUAD (Training camp at Lifeshall, 16-20 August): O'Toole (Everon), Start (Beckur), Green (Nowich), Basy (Wokes), Betherkon (Sarfon), Wesser (Leyton Oriero), Stanonsen (Tranners), Cooper (North Fored), Young (Toutenham), Ball (Evertor), Johnson (Crawe), Konchosky (Charton), Wellens (Manchester Und), Lant (Crawe), Statue (Blackburn), Helbert (Safrodor), Vernasza (Aversel), Nicholas (Charton), Eston (Evertor), Serrard (Liverpoo), Dibon (Lecis), Upson (Arsenal), Taylor (Blackburn), Woodgate (Lecis), Haziam (Sheffield Wednesday), Smith (Watford), Wilson (Man Utt), Bowe (Assenal), Dadley (Notto Courty), Owen (Ilverpool), Roel-Williams (Watford), Hackworth (Lecis); Erigitavell (Manchester Und), Roylor (Marchester Und), Fouhes (Norwch), Brown (Bristol Chy), Platts (Sheffield Wednesday).

(Sheffield Wednasday).
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Cup-Winners' Cup preliminary round first leg: Combran 2 (Paritt per 76, Townsend 84) National Bucharest 5 (Vacc 34, No. Lineau 47, 62, Lin 77, 80); Gleravon 1 (Grant 55) Legie Wersaw 1 (Solotowski 32); Minearnock 2 (Wingin pen 65, 90) Stelboure 1 (Rutherford 12); HJK Helsarik (Fin) 1 Rad Star Bel-

grade (Yug) C; Zeigins Vitreus (Lith) O Happed Beersheba (Isr) C; Talkinna Sadam (Esr) 1. Belahina Bobrulsk (Bela) 1: Lawis Sodia (Bul) 1. Sovan Bratislava (Slocak) 1: Slogia Jugo-magnet (Maz) 1 NK-Zeigeb (Chock) 2: Slogia Jugo-magnet (Maz) 1 NK-Zeigeb (Chock) 2: Primorie Ajdoxscina (Sloven) 2: Union Linembourg C; Zimbu (Chshiru) Med) 1. Shadhar Dorresk (Un) 1: Dinaburg Daugspepts (Lati) 1. Ropez Genga (Azen) C; Belarsa (Lech) 1. Budappen Vasitas (Hun) 3; Hibermans (Maka) O Vestmennaey-per (Ion) 1. European Cup preliminary round first leg; Mit Rudapest O Rosemborg Irondhean (No) 1. German Cup (Rest normet: Chemnitz 1 (Farthurle 3: Lebing 2 Chitansich) 1; Zendeu O Schalle 1: Rot-Wess Oberhausen O Wenter Bramen 2. Let 1. St Pauli 1 (Jena won 4-2 on perasities); Welchof Mannheim 2 Watterscheu 2: (Mennheim won 4-3 on perasities), Pontins Leeghae Praesier Division: Blackburn 1. Transmer 1: Leeds 3 Mannhester Uni C; Sheffield Wednesdey 1. Liverpool 2. Avon Insurance Combination Flest Divisione: Ipsaich 2. Nonaten 0. Friestellies: Crawkey Town O Crystal Palace 7; Albuncham 1. Oekland University (US) 1.

REEBOK PGA ASSISTANTS' CHAMPIONSHIP (Heron's Reach, Blackpool) Leeding flust scores: 273 P Sefton 66 72 65 70. 274 C Benians 69 63 73 69; N Ludweit 71 67 68 68. 275 D Maccheson 67 72 70 68; P Lyons 69 69 67 70; G Houston 68 70 65 74. 278 M Higley 71 70 67 70. 279 P Archer 71 70 67 71; D Perms 72 70 66 68.

Motorcycling Motorcycling
BRITISH GRAND PRDK (Donington Park, tomorrow) Grid positions after opening
qualifying sensines 500cc 1 M Donins (Aus,
Honda) Intin 33.579sec; 2 D Rombord (R.
Aprika) 133.807; 3 C Checa (Sp. Honda)
1:33.873; 4 T Okada (Japan, Honda)
1:33.873; 4 T Okada (Japan, Honda)
1:34.353; 6 A Barros (9r, Honda) 1:34.908;
1:34.353; 6 A Barros (9r, Honda) 1:34.909;
2:36cc 1 T Herada (Japan, Aprika) 1:34.909;
2 O Jecques (Fr, Honda) 1:34.946; 125occ 1 Y
U (Jopan, Yamaha) 1:34.946; 2 T Manako
(Japan, Honda) 1:40.388; 3 N Ueda (Japan,
Honda) 1:40.387.

Rugby League Hawkick RUFC are to stage their first pro-fessional rugby league game on Friday when Carlisle Border Raiders play their Divisional Premiership play-off pool game against Lancashira Lyrix at Mans-field Park.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Divisional Pro-mierable: Lancastiae Poot Sainton (13) 16, Keighley (8) 19, Sainton: Tries Adems,

S Casey; Goals Price-Jones 3; Drop S Casey. Keightey: Tries Foster, Gobons, Larder. Boales Robinson 3; Drop Robinson. (1,297). West Yorkshire Proc. Baumley (22) 28, Handlerstand 1,2 24, Braumley: Tries Brown 2, Carolan, Gibson, Pitts; Goale Long 4, Haudderstlield: Tries Chestham 2, Booth, Buryan, Butt. Hanger, Schoffeld; Goals Booth, Cook, Veners. (1,151).

RRLEY SUPERSTAR INTERNATIONAL CHAL-LENGE (Guangzhou, China) Semi-Reale: J White (Engl bt K Doherty (M) 4-0; R O'Suil-van (Engl bt Guo Huz (China) 4-1.

Specturary
THURSDAY'S LATE RESILES: Elite League:
[pswith 47 Swindon 43, Premier League:
Sheffield 44 Edinburgh 46.

SQUARSh

WORLD GAMES (Lakt), Finland) Second mand: MER: Pool & A Banda (Eg) to O Pousiana (Fin) 9:39-9-9-2; J Raumolin (Fin) but F (Vran (Hr) 9:51-9-19-2; J Raumolin (Fin) but F (Vran (Hr) 9:51-9-19-2) Facus (Fin) 9:45-9-9-9-1; L But (Neth) but A Tromb (Swe) 1-9-3-3 rat. Pool © D Ryan (III) but D Sharplin (NO) 9:49-5-9-5; B Dawis (Aus) but L Entani (Fin) 9:610-8-9-4. Pool D: G Ryding (Carr) but O Kowalski (Gen) 6:9-92-9-2-9-2, K Lo (Mac) but D Exans (Mile) wro. Women: Pool A: S Riz-Genald (Aus) but Y (Kunsane-Hambides (Opi) 9:09-39-2-Pool B: S Wight (Eng) but D Holisman (US) 9:09-19-1 Pool C: S Schöne (Eg) but M Pany (III) 9-1-9-2-9-4; M Zein (Eg) but S Wee (Maizy) 8:9-4-9-3. Pool D: L (Oyce (NZ) bit E Hamborg-Petersan (Dan) 9-6-9-0. V Addinson (Nath) but K Passivirta (Fin) 10-9-9-0-9-4.

Swimming

BUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Seville):
Women's 25teet 1 R (seets (Hur) 5th 21mm
58ee; 2 V Casoni (ft) 5:23:28; 3 E Van Dile,
(Nath) 5:25:28; 4 P Buchse (Ger) 5:30:15;
6 E van der Weigden (Nath) 6:31:28; 6 R (Nachmalose (G2 Rep) 5:33:52; 7 G (Natoni (ft)
5:38:10; 8 A Figin (Swit) 5:39:27; 9 S
Quaglerin (ft) 5:425:56; 10 A Anderman (Swit)
6:43:28; 11 S Leroy (Ft) 5:48:32; 12 B (Rammau (Ger) 5:53:70; 13 E Rousent (Grep)
6:05:02; 14 V Boulsset (Ft) 6:09:31 Dile not
finish: A Scott (GB).

DVINE: Women's 1,m springbound elimination round (top 12 to semi-finish; 1 1
Lesiko (Rus) 270.84pts; 2 V Byre (Rus)
251:43; 3 J Crur (Sp) 238:35; 4 D Lindner
(Ger) 237:48; 6 S (Koch (Ger) 233:85; 6 A
Lindberg (Swe) 232:71; 7 J Schneider (Swit)
231:90; 8 C Mapley Annotet (Swit) 229:62; 9

O Yesimenio (Ukr) 214.59; 10 S Pontius (Fr) 210.63; 11 A Sorolana (Ukr) 209.58; 12 ) Smith (GB) 206.68; 13 K Smith (GB) 206.16; Semi-fixed (Top three in each group to finel); Somi-fixed & 10 Vpr (Rus) 261.18pts; 2 D Lindner (Ge) 247.56; 3 A Lindner (Swe) 239.46; 4 S Pontius (Fr) 255.93; 5 C Mailey Adolar (Swe) 219.84; 6 J Smith (GB) 201.72; Somi-fixed & 1 I Lashina (Rus) 263.49; 2 J Cuz (Sp) 256.57; 3 S Koch (Ger) 244.17; 4 O Yesimenia (Ukr) 234.12; 6 J Schneider (Swe) 219.96; 6 A Sorolana (Ukr) 210.93. (Satt) 219.95; 8 A Sorolana (Uhr) 210.93.
SYNCHRONESED SWIMMERWE: Solo premaintairy round fire programme: 1 O
Sedakova (Rus) 96.68pts; 2 V Dedieu (Fr)
97.00; 3 G Burtando (th 95.48; 4 C Thelessination (5r) 94.76; 5 G Mergual (Sp) 94.40;
6 R Hobi (Satt) 92.38; 7 S Dorrier (Neth)
90.84; 8 A Marryniuk (Uhr) 89.20; 9 A Horworth (Aut) 89.16; 10 G Adamson (68) 88.64.
Overall solo standings (top eight go forword for famal): 1 Sodakova 98.37 200; 2
Dedieu 96.608; 3 Burtando 94.892; 4 Thelassinatou 94.228; 5 Mengual 93.962; 6 Hobi
91.730; 7 Dorrier 90.014; 8 Martyniuk
88.668: 9 Adamson 98.402; 10 Horwath
89.334.

Table tennis

Alan Cooke, the 31-year-old three-times English national champion from Chester-field, has been chosen to captain Eng-land in their opening European League match against Denmark at St Austell on 2 October.

RCA CHAMPIONISHIP'S (Indianapolis) Third round: M Woodforde (Aus) bt M Ros (Chule) 7-6-6-4; A Ages (US) bt A Correta (Sp) 7-6 6-1; M (Asson) (Swe) bt P Sampras (US) 7-6 4-6 7-6.

6-1: M Lersson (Swe) bt P Sampras (US) 7-6
4-6 7-6.
ATP INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (New Haven, Commedicate) Taird round: P Korda (UZ Rep) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-2 6-4; P Korda (UZ Rep) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3 6-6-4; P Korda (UZ Rep) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3 7-6; S Bruguera (Sp) bt F Clavez (Sp) 6-4 7-6; S Bruguera (Sp) bt F Clavez (Sp) 6-4 7-6; S Bruguera (Sp) bt F Clavez (Sp) 6-4 6-4; V Korferniow (Rus) bt K Doosdel (CZ Rep) 6-2 6-2; P Refter (Aus) bt S Doosdel (CZ Rep) 6-2 6-3; P Refter (Aus) bt S Doosdel (CZ Rep) 6-2 6-3; P Refter (Aus) bt S Doosdel (CZ Rep) 6-2 6-3; D LITE TOURNAMENT (Morthing) Sesul finals: P Hend (GB) bt J Fox (GB) 6-3 6-4; N Gould (GB) bt C Snell (Aus) 7-6 6-3.
DU MAURIER WOMEN'S OPEN (Toronto) Third round: A Costor (SA) bt K Po (LIS 6-3 6-3; M Joe Fernandez (LIS) bt A Sanchez Velato (Sp) 6-4 6-3; R Grande (b) bt N Perob (F) 6-2 6-2; C Marthrey (Sp) bt X P Basuki (Indon) 6-1 6-4; M Maleeva (Bul) bt N Sawa-metsu (Lapan) 7-5 6-4.





# Barcelona decide against McManaman

Football

DERRICK WHYTE AND ALAN NIXON

Steve McManaman's proposed transfer from Liverpool to Barcelona fell through yesterday amid conflicting reports over the reasons for the collapse of his £12m move. While the England international's excessive wage demands were being blamed in some quarters, it also appeared that Barcelona to talk to Barcelona after re-

heart and decided that he was from the Spanish club. Although not the player they needed.

Sources close to Anfield suggested that the deal had been scuppered by McManaman's demand for a six-year contract worth £50,000 per week. McManaman was represented in negotiations by his adviser, Simon Fuller, who is also manager of the Spice Girls.

In a statement released yesterday Liverpool said they had given McManaman permission

Liverpool said that permission had been given despite the fact that they did not want the player to leave, it seems clear that they were prepared to sell. McManaman's present five-year deal has two years left to run, but the statement said that several months of negotiations over a

new deal with the player had so far proved unsuccessful. Under the Bosman ruling players are able to move overseas without a transfer fee at the end of their contracts, and it

seems likely that Liverpool decided now might be the time to cash in on McManaman, After being told of Barcelona's interest, McManaman flew to Spain to open negotiations. Barcelona, however, were not prepared to meet his pay demands, which would have cost the club a total of more than £27m in transfer fee and wages

The Spanish club had been thinking in terms of £30,000 a week rather than £50,000 (McManaman is believed to

earn £12,000 per week under his current contract with Liverpool), which would still have meant the player earning £9.5m over the length of his contract.

However, it emerged yesterday that Barcelona may not have ultimately pursued their in-terest in McManaman under any circumstances. After Barcelona's poor performance on Wednesday night, when they could only beat the Latvians of Skonto Riga 3-2 in the first leg of their Edward Cup qualifying round tie, a meeting was

Barcelona president, Joan Gaspart, the vice-president, and Louis van Gaal, the coach.

Sources in Barcelona said that at the meeting it was decided that the club needed to recruit an attacking wing player in the McManaman mould but that he had to be a proven goalscorer. It is widely recog-nised that one of the major weaknesses in McManaman's game is his finishing. Barcelona had also been in-

terested in Rivaldo, an attacking

held between Luis Nunez, the midfield player who scored 21 suade him to sign a new congoals in 41 matches for Deportivo La Coruña last season. On Thursday they opened ne-gotiations with the Brazilian and yesterday completed his pur-chase for £16.7m, the second highest fee ever paid after their own sale of Ronaldo to In-ternazionale. Although the fee

Rush links up

with Dalglish

McManaman, his wages were said to be "only £16,000 a week. McManaman flew to Majorca yesterday, while Liverpool said they now hoped to per-

Ian Rush last night became the latest Liverpool player of yestervear to move to Newcastle when he signed a one-year deal with the club with an option for

a further year. He was granted a free transfer from Leeds.

where he has reportedly been

unsettled since the arrival of George Graham as manager.
The 35-year-old Welsh international will be eligible to take

part in the Champions' League group stage if Newcastle progress past Croatia Zagreb (they are 2-1 up after the first leg of the preliminary round), and

may be called upon to deputise

The Newcastle manager.

Kenny Dalglish, who earlier

this week also signed the 33-

vear-old John Barnes on a free

transfer from Liverpool, joked

vesterday: "We are developing

Rush's move to St James' Park reunites him not only with

Dalglish, under whom he played

at Anfield, but also the former

our vouth policy."

for the injured Alan Shearer.

Football ALAN NIXON AND NICK HARRIS

was higher than that proposed for

make similar demands of Liverpool negotiations are unlikely to reach a speedy conclusion.

It remains to be seen what the Anfield crowd will make of this week's events. Some supporters had already been ex-pressing their frustration at McManaman's continuing failure to realise folly his un-doubted promise and this episode may reinforce his less than complimentary image as a

Liverpool forwards Barnes and the 36-year-old Peter Beardsley.

All four were part of Liverpoof's Championship-winning team in the 1987-88 season.

Leicester City yesterday com-pleted the signing of striker fony Cottee, who is returning to England after a spell in Malaysia

with Selangor, the club he join from West Ham last season.

Cottee. 32, joined Leicester in a £500,000 deal on a two year

contract, and is eligible to play for the Foxes in the Uela Cup-

He said: "Malaysia were only three years into their profes-sional league and I was not read to be put out to grass. I missel

England, my home, my family and wanted to come back. "Now

it is up to me to prove that I am good enough to win a first-

The Manchester United de-fender David May yesterday signed a new £3m deal that will keep him at Old Trafford until

2003. Martin Edwards, the Unit-

ed chairman agreed the six-year.

£10,000-a-week contract in order

to avoid the possibility of lo

of the season, when his current

contract would have expired

team place at Leicester."

### The 'Pocket Rocket' rides into record books

Catherine Riley meets the youngest motorcyclist in tomorrow's Grand Prix

t is almost 20 years to the day that "Rocket" Ron Haslam's Suzuki went up in the road for several years. flames following a spectacular crash in the first mainland British motorcycling Grand Prix at Silverstone. But as he looks forward to tomorrow's meeting at Donington. Haslam is more nervous than in all his years of grand prix and TT racing, because, at the age of just 14, his son, Leon. will become the youngest rider ever in a senior event. He will take part in one of the sup-port races, the Honda CB500

Cup.
I didn't realise how much pressure is on - especially when it's your own son. Haslam said. "I'm pleased that he's going that way, but it's more frightening than I expected."

Leon is one of motorcycling's biggest hopes, hence the Auto Cycle Union's unprecedented decision to grant him a special licence to race at Donington. Following his success in the under-16 motocross championships, this season Leon moved up to the Carnell-Gilera scooter championship, in which he is 79 points clear of his nearest

challengers. The 500cc bike is a big step up from the scooters," Haslam senior says, "From a scooter to a proper bike - with big wheels and quite a lot of power there - is a huge jump. I tested him on it for a couple of days at Donington and he handled it all right. I followed him and made sure he didn't get in any trouble and also made sure he could physically handle the bike, so we've worked pretty hard at that."

Leon, in all other respects a normal teenager, who likes playing football, swimming and running, is fairly relaxed about racing against adults at speeds of up to 115mph on a

"I've been round bikes for most of my life and I've done moto-cross for many years. This year I've done the scooters and it's just natural to move up. It's a bit bigger than the bikes I've been on, but I cope with it OK. But when pushed, the

"Pocket Rocket", as he is known, will admit to being both nervous and excited, "We can't get him to leave the track," his father says. "We have to try and calm him down because him to the says to the track of the says to down because his excitement is just building up and up. With his enthusiasm getting that high, it's easy for him to make mistakes, so we're trying to calm him down a bit and get him to go out there and simply enjoy it."

Leon is well aware of the dangers of the sport. Two years in succession he was leading the moto-cross championship going into the final round - and broke his leg both

the bike. I feel my riding has been been a lot smoother since I broke my legs. It is really important in road racing to keep calm and keep your riding smooth. Breaking my legs made me think, and in a way it helped calm me down."

Leon has been riding since he was eight. "One day he said he wanted to have a go at moto-cross. That started the ball rolling and it's gone on from there," Haslam recalls. So he didn't push him into it? "I'm the one that holds him back - he can't get enough of

"My wife, Anne, and I have put restrictions on him. We don't expect him to be Einstein, but we do expect him to get average grades. The understanding is that as long as probably my aim for the next



he achieves that then the bikes can carry on. If he falls below average, then we stop the

Grades permitting, what does Leon want to do next? Carrying on with bikes is

few years and try and get into grand prix, like my dad, or superbikes." His father is aiming a little lower. "Well, 125s next season - if he can get the li-

And then? "I'll just let him go, to be honest, if he wants

to do that. If it doesn't last then fair enough, but I can't see it. He'll want to go all the way with it and as he's had such an early start, hopefully he can do better than I did."

Ask Leon what he expects from his first major outing and

the excited teenager is gone in his place a determined professional. "When you're on the track you always give 100 per cent and try and push your hardest, but I'm hoping for a podium position - that would be a really good result."

### In Monday's 24-page sports section 'I don't regard captaincy as



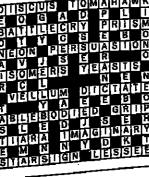
a burden, so giving it away; if that's what I decide to do. will not be a release. Obviously in the aftermath of defeats like Headingley and Trent Bridge, there is a backlash pointed at the captain, which is fair enough. I don't balk at the criticism, it's part of the territory -

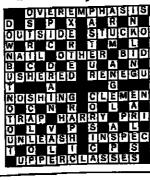
in an exclusive interview, Michael Atherton talks to Derek Pringle about his cricketing future and his disappointment at losing the Ashes series against Australia

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Phi No. 3379 Saturday 16 August Last Saturday's solution

Friday's solution





**ACROSS** 

Coach or train? (6) What's unctuous and un- 3 exciting about a society?

Covering a one-sided fight? (5, 4) Old Penny Black that's 5 brought in not acceptable,

prompting suspicion (5)

11 Playing skat's a chore (4) 6

12 State of being out and in?
Get to the point (6, 4) 7

13 Persistence shown by a town after a decade (8) Extreme extract from 8 baleful tragedy (5)

19 Handle roughly till tear flows (3-5)

23 Man giving sign of affection and love (4)

18 With many famous actors a couple of lines intro-

Gambling game: deal a couple, heartlessly (5)

scribing train in service? 28 Odds on this spot being

**DOWN** 

Study involves lips, red (7) Girl participating in school games (4) Leave tit fluttering to hover over the ground?

Food flavouring in recipe accepted by female in charge (6) Rules tend to get broken. in the final analysis (3, 6) Kept a clean sheet? United team's first in to cheer

(4, 3) Fold instructions for a baleful tragedy (5) bricklayer? (2, 2, 3, 4) Very nice old stage routine 10 Push, in this case, for a clinching argument (3, 4,

14 Fall ill as a result of fish 22 How copies appear, despite what's been said (3, 16 Plant list came in an edited version (8)

a couple of lines intro-duction is more than enough! (3-4) Unexpectedly ousted and 20 European cash got with a surprised (9)
27 Railways no longer ex-emplary, losing heart destick-up in foreign coun-21 Attack when on boat-trip

24 Turned up on quiet army

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: M Grocott, Loughborough; I Wrigley, Onchan; R Watten, Coffley; K Hey, Kidlington; W Kaye, Bradford.

### Winger Evans signs for Bath

Rugby Union

Llanelli lost its favourite son yesterday as Bath pulled off the transfer coup of the summer by signing the Wales and Lions

wing Ieuan Evans.
The Welsh record cap holder agreed a two-year contract following negotiations with Bath that were completed just before yesterday's Heineken European Cup deadline.

Bath are believed to have paid around £75,000 to secure his services, while Evans can expect to command a six-figure salary at the Recreation Ground. Evans. who has 71 caps for Wales, will be in familiar territory when he makes his debut for Bath in their opening European Cup match at Sardis Road

in Pontypridd on 6 September. Evans misses Bath's opening Allied Dunbar Premiership games against Newcastle and Harlequins. The 33-year-old is getting married next Saturday and will be on honeymoon for two weeks. Bath are desperate for his arrival

(P) 2000 (P) (P)

as their three other experienced wings, Simon Geoghegan. Adedayo Adebayo and Jon Sleightholme, are all injured.

The Bath coach, Andy Robinson, was delighted with his new player after narrowly failing to sign Gregor Townsend from Northampton. "His Lions' per-formance in South Africa this summer speaks for itself," he said. Another Lions hero could

also be on the move as Northampton yesterday pro-vided the strongest possible indication that their rugby director, Ian McGeechan, could become the new England coach.

The Rugby Football Union are staying silent over any suggestion that the Lions coach's appointment is now a formality once Jack Rowell's part-time contract expires on 31 August. But Northampton virtually gave the game away when their millionaire backer, Keith Barwell, confirmed they had made Sale a six-figure offer for the New Zealander John Mitchell. Sale have reportedly dismissed the

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bid for their player-coach.

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